

## **Animal Mimics and Nature Matches**

(age: Preschool/Kindergarten)

*This lesson is designed to help children relate to nature through action and observation.*

### Activity: Animal Actions

Animals move in all sorts of ways. People walk or run, but what do animals do?

First, let's mimic some animals. Can you swim like an otter? Can you climb like a bear? Can you hop like a rabbit? (mimic motions and have kids join with you).

Just like us, animals move around so they can find food, visit each other, and find homes.

### Activity: Nature Matches

#### **Babies and Adults**

Show pictures of baby animal flash cards. Have children identify what the animals are, make sound of animal, maybe "act" like that animal.

After all pictures are shown, have them match babies to adult animal flash cards. Animals grow up just like we do. Some look a lot like adults and some look really different (i.e. caterpillar/butterfly)

#### **Colors**

Animals come in all sorts of colors. Sometimes they stand out and sometimes colors help them hide. Match flash cards with color to animal flash cards that have the same color. Look at the colors children are wearing—what animal could they be if they were an animal?

#### **Shapes** *(this one is a little more difficult—use only if kids breeze through the other two)*

Show pictures of various shapes and have them identify (circle, square, triangle, line, swirl). Then show pictures of animals and have them match up to the shapes (ladybug, worm, cone)

#### **If time, Animals and Tracks**

Have them look at their feet and hands and think about what kind of tracks they'd make. Show pictures or molds of animal tracks and have them match up with photos of the animals they came from.