

Have some fun with Vroom in the Pumpkin Patch!!



<p>Nature Builder: Use outside play as an opportunity to explore how things work. Encourage your child to find natural building blocks like small sticks, rocks, and leaves. Take turns placing the objects on top of each other and talk about what you notice, "The leaf won't stay on top. What else could we use?"</p>	<p>What your child is learning: As your child builds, they're thinking like a scientist and testing out ideas to learn more about balance, size, and cause and effect. Asking questions promotes critical thinking skills. They're more likely to remember and use what they learn when they're engaged in hands-on learning.</p>
<p>Nature Sizes: Outside, encourage your child to look for leaves, sticks, and rocks of different sizes. Invite them to arrange them from smallest to biggest. Ask questions about their thinking like, "How did you decide where to put that rock?" Switch up the rules and try sorting by color or type of object next.</p>	<p>What your child is learning: Switching between different rules for sorting objects gives your child the opportunity to think flexibly, a skill they will use in problem-solving and coming up with new ideas. Your child is also becoming familiar with math concepts like shape, size, and number in playful ways.</p>
<p>Near and Far: When you're outside, try playing this game with your child. Give them a place to stand and have them estimate how many steps they are from you. When they walk back, count their steps together aloud. Try all different distances!</p>	<p>What your child is learning: Young children can tell there is a difference between large and small quantities! By doing fun, back-and-forth games like this, you're building on this skill and helping them understand more about what numbers stand for.</p>
<p>Colors of the Rainbow: When you're outside, go on a scavenger hunt with your child to find all the colors of the rainbow around you. Look for red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Seek and find them as a team.</p>	<p>What your child is learning: As your child figures out which objects are the same or different colors, they're putting information into categories. Sorting information by categories helps them organize their understanding of the world and is a pre-math skill.</p>
<p>Texture Walk: Encourage your child to explore different textures around them. What does a tree trunk feel like? Scratchy? Bumpy? What does the grass feel like on their fingers? Talk together about what you notice, like: "That rock is smooth and this rock is rough."</p>	<p>What your child is learning: Children learn new words by experiencing what they mean, with you helping to describe what is happening and to build on their ideas. Supporting your child's exploration encourages their drive to learn, ask questions, and think critically.</p>

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