

The Greatest Gift for a Child . . . Time spent outdoors

Introduce the children in your life to the natural world. Do not leave the child indoors. Children who are introduced to the natural world will develop an appreciation for the wildlands and wildlife and will seek outdoor recreation opportunities throughout their lives. There is no greater gift you can give a child.

Children are shuttled from one organized event to another with little free time in between throughout their childhood. What little free time is available is often spent in front of a computer, television or electronic game system. All of these activities contribute to a child's development; however, experiences with the outside world where a child can explore and learn on his or her own are often missing from the mix.



Parents sometimes do not allow their children outdoors for fear of their safety. Adults can pitch in – take the children hiking, camping, canoeing. Bring along identification guides so you can learn about the plants, animals and rocks along the way. Also, bring along magnifying glasses and binoculars. There can be no greater joy or education than listening to birds, observing wildlife, watching buds grow into leaves and flowers, observing the seasons change and exploring creeks, woods, and prairies.

What's more, you don't need to spend a lot of money to enjoy a day at a local park.