

Learning in Lafayette

Did you know you can support your child's STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), language, and literacy development all around town?



Here are some ideas to get you started!

Use Visual Arts to Promote Language Arts

Remember the expression, “A picture is worth a thousand words?”

Visiting art museums can provide chances to support language as you talk with your child about what you view.

See how many descriptive words you can use as you look at paintings or sculptures, or ask your child to tell you a story about what they think is happening in a picture.



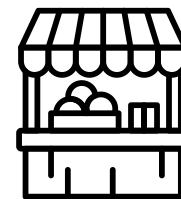
Try It At: **The Art Museum of Greater Lafayette**

Bring Home a Bounty of Knowledge

The farmers’ market offers lots of learning!

You can support language and math by talking about the different types of produce – how many different leafy greens can you find? How are turnips and radishes similar or different? And all of the printed signs offer chances for children to practice reading.

If you’re shopping, you can ask your child to help you compare the costs of different items.



Try It At: **Farmers Markets** in **Lafayette** and **West Lafayette**



Get Curious While Getting Active

Do you have a child who likes to learn on the go?

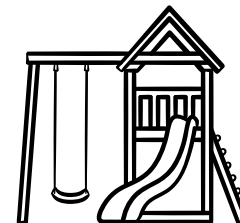
When you are on a playground, do you ever think about how the equipment is built and how we use it:

What makes a seesaw work?

What slide goes the fastest?

How do you get a swing to go higher?

These are fun, active ways to think about physical science and engineering!



Try It At:
Happy Hollow Park or **Munger Park**

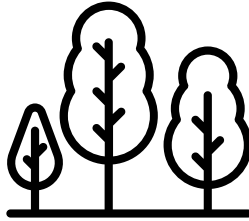


Notice Nature Across the Year

Indiana's four seasons can help children learn a lot about how weather and time affect the earth!

If you visit the same parks regularly, you can talk about how the trees change, or how the water looks different after dry or rainy weather.

If you go to multiple parks, ask your child what they notice about similarities or differences.



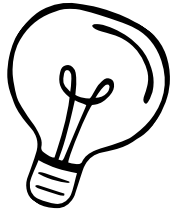
Try It At: **Celery Bog Natural Area**

Inspire a Future Scientist

Science museum exhibits offer children interactive, hands-on experiences to learn about the world.

The sense of wonder children develop through these experiences may even inspire them to become future scientists, engineers, or doctors!

Encourage scientific thinking and spark curiosity by exploring activities involving technology, space, and engineering with your young child.



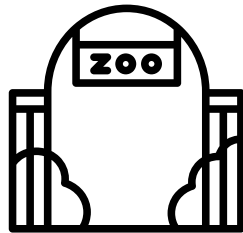
Try It At: **Imagination Station**

Do Some Animal Arithmetic

Math is more fun when it involves topics and activities we're interested in!

Next time you are at the zoo, try talking about the quantities of different animals to help young children think about numbers.

If you have older children, you can collect data during your visit- keep track of the animals you see to find out if there are more birds or mammals.



Try It At: **Columbia Park Zoo**

Where else around town do you support your child's learning and development?

Are there other things you'd like to know about early learning and education?

We'd love to hear your ideas for what we should include in future resources!

Tell us here: cel@purdue.edu

Learn more about the Center for Early Learning on our [website](#):



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