



Learning Through Nature & Environment

"Just living is not enough...one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower." ~ Hans Christian Anderson

The benefits of connecting children with nature are many. Natural environments support children's healthy development, creativity, and imagination. In natural environments children have the freedom to move their bodies and use their minds.



Encouraging Early Learners Today

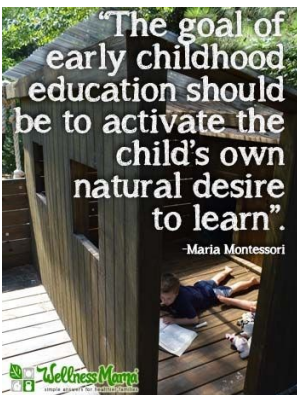
2018—Quarter 2

Exploring Nature with Your Child

- ★ Allow time for walks in the park.
- ★ Provide different materials for children to play with to make mud pies.
- ★ Plant a vegetable or flower garden.
- ★ Water grass and flowers.
- ★ Read books with your child about trees, flowers, and insects.
- ★ Build and dig in the earth.
- ★ Listen to birds sing.
- ★ Collect seeds.
- ★ Look at clouds.
- ★ Hunt for caterpillars and ladybugs.
- ★ Help your child learn about recycling.

Natural Environments

Being outdoors feels good for everyone. Children are free to explore, move around, and make noise. Being in nature, children are able to run, jump, climb, skip, hop, and shout. All these activities help children release energy. When children have these natural ways to release excess energy, they are able to focus. Researchers have found that outdoor play calms children and prepares them for learning.



When children play outdoors, they have opportunities to play with other children. In nature children connect with others and learn to share and solve problems. Outdoors, children make up games and rules and develop social skills they will need later in life.

Parent Policies - CCAA Swipe Card Use

If you receive Child Care Subsidies, you have a CCAA Swipe Card. Make sure that you are using your swipe card daily to indicate your child's attendance at his/her daycare center.

Remember! There is a limit to the number of absences your child can accumulate within your 12-months without penalty — and not swiping IS counted as an absence!

There have been some recent changes to the CCAA swipe system which now allow you to only CHECK-IN each child once per day!

Yay for simplicity!

For Questions or to Order a Card, Call:

(979) 595-2801
ext. 2243

Or Email:
CCMS@bvcog.org

Things to Remember:

1. If you miss a day, you are able to go back for up to 6 days to report attendance.
2. Avoid leaving your CCAA card at your child's daycare center and/or allowing anyone, other than the person assigned to the card, to use the card.
3. Each account can have up to 4 CCAA Cards. If someone other than you drops off or picks up your child on a regular basis, order them a card!

Call CCS Staff if you have any questions!



AmericanJobCenter

Texas Rising Star Program

Quality Child Care Matters



Research tells us that a child's healthy development depends on safe and positive relationships and experiences during the first few years of life. Choosing quality child care is one of the most important decisions you make for your child as they spend a good portion of their first few years in the care of someone other than their parents or family members. It is important to find a program that is convenient, open when you need it, and will have a long lasting positive impact on your child's development. Most importantly, you and your child need a child care program that makes sure your child is in a physically and emotionally safe environment where he/she can learn new things.

The Texas Rising Star program is voluntary and assists providers who strive to provide a higher level of quality care for the children they serve by giving them access to mentoring and professional development resources designed to assist them in improving the quality of early childhood environments. For a list of local Texas Rising Star Providers, visit our website: bvjobs.org/programs/childcare/

Learning in Natural Environments

Natural outdoor environments provide children the opportunity to develop an appreciation for our planet.

Childhood experiences with nature play a critical role in developing life attitudes towards the elements that help us live on this planet. These elements, water and air are necessary for growing our food and clean air is necessary for our survival. Learning to value water and air starts in childhood when adults model respect for our environment.

[Peep Plants a Seed - Video on YouTube](#)



Curriculum Enrichment

- ★ Collect pine cones and acorns.
- ★ Collect different size rocks and sort them by size and shape
- ★ Explore your neighborhood park with your child.
- ★ Watch YouTube videos on how to plant a garden.
- ★ Show your child how to water and care for a plant.
- ★ Read books with your child about nature.

Provider Policies - CCAA "Swipe Card" Monitoring

If you accept child care subsidies, your CCS Customers must utilize the Child Care Automated Attendance (CCAA) system to record their child's daily attendance.

In accordance with the Provider Handbook that you received, you are responsible for accessing and reviewing the CCAA system attendance and absence report.

Reviewing CCAA Activity

- ◇ [CCAA Texas Provider Portal](#)
- ◇ Review CCAA data **every three days**
- ◇ Look for any "Z" - The red Z indicates that the parent failed to swipe

CCS Provider Specialist

(979) 595-2801
ext. 2243

CCMS@bvcog.org

Who Should I Call With Issues?:

- ◇ CCAA device issues and troubleshooting, call: 866-320-8720.
- ◇ Questions regarding attendance can be answered by your Provider Specialist.

NEW!! One Swipe Per Day!

- ◇ The system recently changed allowing for a more stream-lined parent process. Parent's only need to use the CHECK-IN function for each child —no more checking out!

For more information on the CCAA system, please review the [Provider Handbook!](#)

Equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired customers may contact: Relay Texas (800) 735-2989 (TTY) or 711 (Voice).