



# Spring into Outdoor Literacy

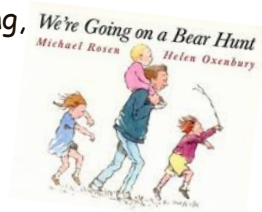


**ABC Hunt** - With a digital camera hunt for letters in nature. Develop your pictures and create word art such as your child's first name, your family's last name, an inspirational word or an ABC book.



**Jump Rope Rhymes** - Sing a nursery rhyme or chant while jumping with a rope. For young ones lay the rope on the ground to jump over. The book, *Anna Banana Jump-Rope Rhymes* by Joanna Cole has over 50 pages of rhymes to chant.

**Act Out a Story** - There are many great adventurous picture books that can be acted out in your backyard, in a park or on a playground. *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Helen Oxenbury and *We're Going on a Lion Hunt* by David Axtell are two repetitive tales that beg for some action movements outside. Children can pretend to swish through the grass, splash through the water, squish squash through mud and tiptoe through a cave all while searching for a bear or lion. Your child could even create their own version of a *We're Going on a \_\_\_\_\_*. *Hello Toes! Hello Feet!* by Ann Whitford Paul is another great action story. Hopping, clumping and clomping, leaping, skipping, jumping, stamping, shuffling and creeping are just some of the great words your child will learn the difference between in this story. This book is great for vocabulary development.



**Paint Your Words** - With a bucket of water and a paint brush (the big painter kind- not the little watercolor brushes) head outside and you can "paint" forms or letters on the sidewalk or on the side of the house. If it's really warm outside, it will disappear like magic. Sidewalk chalk also works great for this activity.



**ABC Scavenger Hunt** - Go on an alphabet scavenger hunt. Search your neighborhood for things that begin with each letter of the alphabet. **A**-alley, **B**-bark on a tree, **C**-cumulus clouds, **D**- dog and so on.

**Read Outside** - Take your books outside, sit on the playground equipment or on the grass and read. On the next warm sunny day, find a cozy spot outside and unwind with a good book. Maybe you could even do this after a walk to your nearest library for some new reads.

**Create Stationary** - Gather some art supplies (cardstock or heavy construction paper, crayons, paint and a clipboard) and head outdoors. Create cards and letter writing paper to send to friends and family. You could do a crayon rubbing of tree bark or paint a scene of your backyard. Stay outside or head back indoors to write a letter or card to someone special.



**Letter Hide and Seek** - Write alphabet letters individual cards. Hide them throughout the yard. Now you are ready to seek them out. Have someone call out a letter and then try to find it.



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