

# A Walk in the Woods

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An important part of our ABNL week is Observation Time. It's a daily activity that we put a lot of thought and planning into. But what about our walk through the woods to get to our journaling spot? How can we make the walking experience purposeful, too?

- Clear, explicit procedures and expectations prior to getting out on the trail
- Partner up to engage in focused conversations

We want students to notice their surroundings, so give them something to look for. Here are some ideas.

Read *ABC Naturally* inside and then have students look for letters in nature on their walk.

Give students color paint strips and have them match colors with items they find on the trail.

Nature scavenger hunt / Observation Find activities (attached pages)

- Management thoughts
  - Walk a bit—how long depends on your group. Then gather up and discuss their findings. You'll be amazed at how kids will spot things that we adults miss. Make a big deal of what your students discover. They'll look even more closely and see what incredible things they can find on the next section of the trail before stopping again.
  - Students should walk and talk only with their partner. I also suggest **not** letting them pass one another. This way you avoid any running on the trails. When you gather up, then it's group talk time.
  - Keep track of time. You want to make sure you have a good chunk of time for independent journaling, too. Most likely, your walk back will be faster than your walk to your observation spot.

This walk can truly be the most wonderful part of you and your students' day—when you are sharing the wonders of nature.