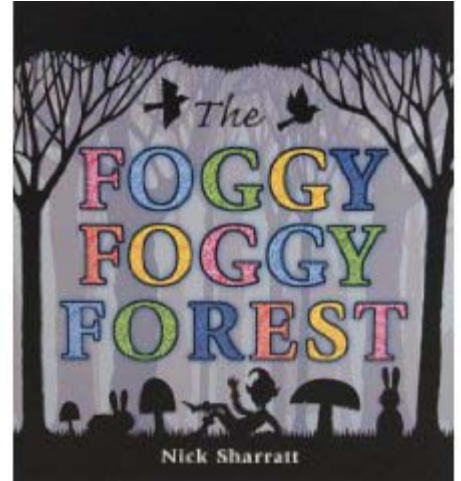


Nature Programs: Into the Wild

Displays and Props

- Think outdoors! Green plants, logs, bark, waterfall, pond, trees, etc.
- Do you have puppets or stuffed animals that might be seen in the wilderness? Add them to the decorations.
- Borrow a mini-fountain to plug in that will give you the sound of running water without being too annoying to other patrons.
- Make the Children's Desk into a Ranger Station, Information Center or First Aid Tent.
- Make a sign post out of a scrap of wood or even a yardstick. Make different sizes of arrows out of poster board or scrap wood from a local carpentry or home supply center. Attach arrows so they are pointing in different directions. The arrows can point patrons to various places within the library: checkout area, picture book section, science fiction, etc. To make it look like it stands in the ground, fill a clay pot with sand or gravel and stick the post down in it. Add fake plants to make it look like the outdoors.
- Have a button-making machine? Make a button for each staff member with "RANGER (name)." If you don't have a button-maker, re-use plastic nametag badges from conferences. Add a leaf, stick, bug or animal track sticker or picture to personalize each one.
- Display books on camping and hiking amidst outdoor gear. Include things like a sleeping bag, canteen, backpack, flashlight, hiking boots, oars, fishing poles, etc.
- Gather a bunch of stuffed bears of all shapes and sizes. Display them on a table with a picnic basket filled with books. Add a sign that says "DANGER! Please DON'T Feed the Bears!"
- Make a path that winds through the library. Use laminated pieces of paper, cut in the shapes of stones and tape them to the floor. Create a "fork in the road" as it weaves through different areas. You can do the same thing with animal tracks. Reproduce them on pieces of brown paper so it looks as if they have left a track in the mud.
- If you don't have room for a real tent to be set up—even a kid-size one—throw a blanket or sheet over a table, add a flashlight and invite the kids to visit the campsite. Nametag Ideas: leaf and tree shapes, magnifying glass or flashlight shapes, basic shapes cut from a map, arrows.



(- from Collaborative Summer Library Programs (CSLP) theme, "Discover New Trails @ your library," 2004)

Trail Map Bulletin Board

- Use an old map for the background on a bulletin board or cut your letters out of a map. Crunch them up for a different effect.

I Spy on the Trail Bulletin Board



What you need:

- old magazines or catalogs
- poster paper
- glue
- scissors

What you do:

- Use old magazines or catalogs and clip things that you might see on the trail. Be sure to add some pictures of things that don't belong.
- Glue the pictures to a piece of bulletin board paper or poster board. Make a list of the things they are to look for: hiking boot, backpack, squirrel, etc.

Make sure to fill the paper with pictures so it is more difficult to locate the items. Use one of the "I Spy" books as a guide to layout. This is a great interactive display that all ages can enjoy.

(- from CSLP theme, "Discover New Trails @ your library," 2004)

Some Storytime Books (copyright 2008 or newer):

Let's Play in the Forest While the Wolf is Not Around, by Claudia Rueda

The Foggy, Foggy Forest, by Nick Sharratt

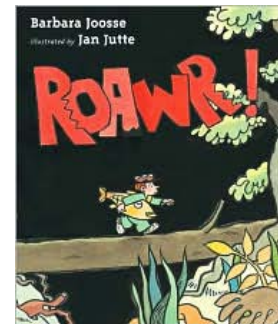
Redwoods, by Jason Chin

If Animals Kissed Good Night--, by Ann Whitford Paul

In the Dark of the Night, by Paul Stewart

Busy Tree, by Jennifer Ward

Roarw! by Barbara Jooisse



Going Camping

Sung to: "I'm a Little Teapot"

I am going camping.
(*point thumbs proudly to chest*)

Time to pack
(*point to wristwatch*)

My tent, my bedroll,
(*Make tent with hands; then fold hands to cheek*)

And a snack.
(*Pretend to eat*)

I'll sit by the campfire
(*warm hands over fire*)
Its glow so bright.
(*Fan and wiggle fingers to resemble fire*)

Then snooze in my tent
(*Pretend to snore*)

'Til the morning light!
(*Open eyes wide, forming sun over head*)

Take Us Out to the Forest

Sung to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"

Take us out to the forest.

Let us hike in the wild.

Show us a skunk and a few bear tracks.

We don't care if we never come back.

But it's look, look, look at your compass.

If it rains, then it pours and you're wet.

Then it's ouch, slap, sting and you're bit.

In the great outdoors!

More Fingerplays, Action Rhymes and Songs:

Walkin' Through the Forest

To introduce this, talk about going for a walk in the woods near one's home, at a park, etc.

Walkin' through the forest, what do I see? *(March in rhythm, put hand up as if shading one's eyes and look around.)*

I see a busy squirrel up in a tree. *(Stop and point up as if at a squirrel in a tree.)*

He waves his tail and chatters at me:

Chh-chh-chh, chh-chh-chh! *(Shake one's "tail" and chatter.)*

Walkin' through the forest, what do I see? *(Repeat first actions.)*

I see an owl up in a tree. *(Stop and point.)*

She flaps her wings and hoots at me:

Who-who, who-who, who-who! *(Flap one's arms and hoot.)*

Walkin' through the forest, what do I see? *(Repeat first actions.)*

I see a woodpecker up in a tree. *(Stop and point.)*

He pecks at the trunk and doesn't see me:

Ratta-tat-tat, ratta-tat-tat! *(bob head as if pecking)*

Walkin' through the forest, what do I see? *(Repeat first actions.)*

I see an animal behind a tree. *(Stop and point.)*

Small, black and white, what could it be? *(Scratch head.)*

I see a bushy tail from behind the tree's trunk

Oh, my goodness, is that a SKUNK? *(Hold nose.)*

Everybody RUN HOME!!! *(Run in place.)*

(- from CSLP theme, "Discover New Trails @ your library," 2004)



A Camping We Will Go

Sung to: "The Farmer and The Dell"

A camping we will go.
A camping we will go.
Hi ho we're off to the woods.
A camping we will go.

Ellie will bring the tent.
Oh Ellie will bring the tent.
Hi ho we're off to the woods.
A camping we will go.

Luke will bring the food.
Oh Luke will bring the food.
Hi ho we're off to the woods.
A camping we will go.



Continue with other supplies and change the children's names.

Craft:

Moose Antlers

What you need:

- brown paper
- glue
- marker

What you do:

- Cut brown paper into a strip large enough to go around the child's head for the headband. Glue or staple the ends together. (If you are using a stapler, make sure the stapler ends are on the outside of the headband to avoid catching hair).
- Have the children trace their hands onto brown paper. Then cut them out and glue or staple them to the headband for the antlers.

(- from CSLP theme, "Discover New Trails @ your library," 2004)

