

## **SEASONS - SPRING**

**TIME: 2.5 HRS**

**DESCRIPTION:** The excitement of spring is everywhere! Celebrate the reawakening of plants and hibernating animals and discover why all of nature is so busy this season! Seeing, touching, smelling and listening will help students explore the wonders of Ojibway's natural environment.

### **SEASONAL PRESENTATION**

Using photos to depict each season, the naturalist reviews with the students some of the characteristics of the seasons. The signs of spring including wildflowers and animal nesting behaviour are illustrated with an interactive discussion.

**BREAK** – A short break is scheduled for the students to use the washrooms and have a small snack and drink.

### **GUIDED HIKE TO THE POND**

A naturalist will lead the students on a hike through the forest down to Ojibway's pond. Students are encouraged to keep their eyes and ears open for animal signs and point out the changes of the season (eg. new leaves on trees, plants emerging from the ground, flowers, insect activity, birds gathering nesting material).

Opportunities to see deer, chipmunks, raccoons, squirrels, birds, turtles, snakes, fish, dragonflies, caterpillars, spiders, and many more insects, are part of this hike

### **VISITING BAT HOUSES**

The naturalist brings the group to the man-made bat houses located next to the Nature Centre. Students will learn why we have erected bat houses and why we like to have bats living nearby.

### **BIRD FEEDER WATCH**

While inspecting the life in the wildlife feeding area, the naturalist helps the students discover the needs of animals and how they are met in this particular area.

### **VIEWING NATURE CENTRE EXHIBITS**

A naturalist roams amongst the students, answering their questions as they view the Nature Centre's live animal displays and natural history exhibits. Students are encouraged to view and touch a variety of natural objects in the discovery centre.

*Please note that the Nature Centre has a Nature Shop with bird seed, feeders, books and children's items for sale.*

**Teachers may choose one of the following to complete their Ojibway field study:**

**A. HANDS-ON SNAKE TALK**

The students are introduced to one of the centre's resident snakes. The naturalist discusses characteristics, senses and habits of snakes and explains the concept of endangered, vulnerable and extinct species. Each child is given the opportunity to pet one of the Nature Centre's resident snakes.

**B. SCAVENGER HUNT**

While hiking with the naturalist, students look for wildlife photos throughout the park and check off items on their scavenger hunt checklist.

**C. BEE GAME**

Students imitate bees as they pollinate flowers, fly to and from their hive and communicate with other bees.

**D. BUILD A TREE GAME**

Students simulate the growth of a tree from a small seed, growing roots, leaves, and branches. Animals that use trees are incorporated into this game.