STEM ON THE GO

April 2022

This month, check out Janice VanCleave's *Play and Find Out about Nature: Easy Experiments for Young Children* to find fun experiments and activities that you can do while exploring the outdoors!

**EXPERIMENT #1**

**Egg Carton Plants**

Materials: cardboard egg carton, potting soil, herb seeds, water

1. Put some potting soil into each section your egg carton.
2. Then place a seed (or two) into each section.
3. Cover your seed and water lightly.
4. Observe your egg carton over the next few days or weeks and see your plants start to grow.
5. Make sure to add water if the soil is dry!
6. As they get bigger, you can transfer them to a bigger pot.

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EXPERIMENT #2
Recycled Plastic Shrinky Dinks!

Materials: Clam shell style boxes from the recycling bin (number 6 works the best), Sharpie markers, hole punch, twine, parchment paper, baking tray, scissors and oven.

1. With the help from an adult, preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Cut shapes from your plastic containers and punch a hole in them. Remember that they will shrink! So start out by cutting them 2-3 times bigger than you want them to end up.
3. Use the Sharpie markers to decorate one side of your plastic.
4. Lay your parchment paper in a baking tray, then place your decorated plastic on top.
5. With adult supervision, place your tray in the oven. Watch as the sides of the plastic curl up! When they lay back down flat, your shrinky dinks are finished!
6. Pull the tray out, and let them cool! Use your new charms to decorate as you please!

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