

Tips for Parents

Encourage your child to ask questions about their observations and explore their ideas. Guide your child to research their questions to develop their own conclusions. Use some of these questions to help them make connections and draw conclusions:

- What living things do you see? What living things do you hear?
- What is similar about the living things you see? What is different?
- What are the living things doing? Why do you think they are behaving that way?
- What else do you notice? What questions do you have?
- How do you feel about what you are observing? Why do you feel this way?
- What do you think is important to share with others about your observations? Why?



This take-home activity is supported by Cambridge STEAM Initiative, a joint partnership between the City of Cambridge's Department of Human Service Programs and Cambridge Public Schools.

If you have any questions about the STEAM Initiative, please contact Sharlene Yang at syang@cambridgema.gov.

STEAM

(Science Technology Engineering Arts Math)

@ Home

Nature From Your Window
A Science Observation Activity

Nature

From Your Window



Observation Set Up:

Find a window in your home to look outside. Set up a comfortable chair and area to write on. You can also do this on a porch or in the backyard.

Gather materials for recording observations and creating an art piece, like paper, pencils, colored pencils, crayons, and/or clay. Have a timer available to use. Now you are ready to find nature!

NOTE: Always use caution when sitting by the window, especially with younger children. Make sure children are sitting at a safe distance away from the window.

ASK What living things (other than humans) live in your neighborhood? How does it feel to be more aware of your environment?

PREDICT Think about your neighborhood. What kinds of living things do you think you will see from your window? Why did you make that guess?

OBSERVE Set your timer for 10 minutes. Look out your window. What kinds of living things do you see? What are they doing? How many do you see? What sounds do they make? What do you notice when you focus on one type of living thing?

RECORD Write down your observations. Draw, take detailed notes, or both!

REFLECT How do you feel about what you're observing? Identify and describe your emotions. Record these near your written observations.

REPEAT Do you think you will observe the same living things at a different time of day? Try this again at a different time of day. Set your timer and Observe, Record, and Reflect on the living things you observe.

EXPRESS How can you combine your observations and emotions in one art piece? What is important for you to include?