

Camping for Kindergarten...
By Melissa, IA

Some of us look for the perfect curriculum to teach our children their needed skills. I find that often times we just don't see the learning that is taking place around us because we aren't clued in to the opportunities that present themselves. Sometimes we even forget to "count" that fun learning activity mistaking it for "fun" and not "true learning".

Camping can provide for many Kindergarten skills. Some activities that often go along with camping are:

Art – creating collage pictures, colors, coloring, drawing with sticks

Bible – family worship, reading or listening to Bible stories (campfire is a great time for this)

Science – star gazing, safety, exploring, seasons, nature study of bugs, trees, leaves, grasses, flowers, rocks, water, etc.

Math – sorting, counting

Social Studies – seeing other family structures and activities, learning about the park ranger, the campground hosts, learning how to live without electricity or many home appliances, etc.

PE – lots of time for large motor skills of running, jumping, skipping, climbing, biking, playground play, hiking, and small motor skills of holding food over the fire, picking flowers/ leaves/rocks, whistling with grass between fingers, helping prepare meals, etc.

Language – sharing what is happening, drawing pictures of what you saw or did, dictating to Mom or Dad a letter to family or in creating a camping memory book, listening to stories told or stories read

Music – singing songs around the campfire or in the car

Life Skills – listening to directions, cooking new foods (with help)

Don't feel guilty if you take some time out of your regular schedule to go camping. You aren't going to fall behind with learning at this age, in fact, it might actually enhance your child's education.

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