

MASSABESIC CENTER PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Wee Wonders

Tuesdays, 12:30-2 pm

Wednesdays, 10-11:30 am

Cost: \$8 M / \$11 NM (per child/parent pair)

Leader: Kim Murphy, Naturalist

Massabesic Center • 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, NH 03032 • Phone: (603) 668-2045

Pre-registration required. Please call the center.

Winter

Join us for our winter series: Locomotion in Winter! Discover the changing seasons through hands-on activities, songs, crafts, stories, and outdoor discovery. Please dress to be outside and wear appropriate footwear. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-Registration is required.

Dec 6/7: 'Tis the Season for Evergreens: What would the holidays, and especially winter, be without evergreens? They add color to our winter woods; they provide cover, protection, shelter, and food for our animal friends; and they supply us with materials for our holiday decorations! Come and explore the world of evergreens, and discover which animals rely on them for winter survival!

Dec 13/14: Homes for the Holidays: Winter is just around the corner, and by now the animals should know exactly where they will need to shelter as the snow and ice takes hold of the New England landscape. What kinds of winter homes and hibernacula will the animals be settling into? Today we'll learn about a few different animals, and find out where they will call home for the winter holidays.

Jan 10/11: Swimming Through Winter: There's a whole lot of life trapped under the ice in winter...fish spend their winter swimming under the ice. But who else stays down there? And what are they doing in that dark, cold, watery underworld? Today we'll take a peek under the ice to discover the hidden winter world of our aquatic animal friends.

Jan 17/18: Wings of Winter: Some of our feathered friends flew away south for the winter- but many of them over-winter right here in our backyards! Do you know which ones stayed? How do they keep warm? What might they find to eat here all winter long? Join us as we explore backyard birds flying through winter- and make them a special treat to hang out in your yard!

Jan 24/25: Sledding Mammals: How do you play in winter? Do you build a snowman? Go ice skating? How about sledding?! Although survival in winter is serious business for most of our animal friends, some have found a way to have a bit of fun while traveling over the snow. Some animals travel while sledding- right on their bellies! Come and learn about these fun animal friends as we play in the snow like otters!!

Jan. 31/Feb. 1: Keeping Still: Which critters of the winter woods skip winter altogether by keeping still and sleeping it away? Although there are some animals that hibernate to survive

winter, it's not as easy as it may seem! Come find out which of our animals hibernate, and how they prepare to survive our harsh winter months.

Feb.7/8: Animals on Snowshoes: Deep snow can make winter survival and travel very difficult – until you strap on your snowshoes! Animals may not be able to wear them- but some animals' feet so big they certainly look like snowshoes! The lynx and snowshoe hare are two such animals that have snowshoe feet- and it is no wonder that this predator-prey combination ecologically dependent on each other. Come and learn about these winter-adapted animals, as we try on our own snowshoe feet, and play some predator-prey games!

Feb. 14/15: Burrowing through Snow: As a layer of snow blankets the ground, all may appear calm and serene... but is it? Who's burrowing down there under the snow, and are they really warmer under there? Today we will take a look under the snow to discover the fury of activity taking place as our smallest of animals are struggling to survive.

Spring

Join us for our spring series! Discover the changing seasons through hands-on activities, songs, crafts, stories, and outdoor discovery. Please dress to be outside and wear appropriate footwear. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-Registration is required.

Spring series I: The Earth is Our Home

March 13/14: Rocks: Rocks are everywhere – you see them everyday! The rocks you see may have once been part of a magnificent mountain or on the bottom of a vast ocean! They may have been stomped by the dinosaurs! They are as old as the earth itself, but continuously change and recycle themselves. Come today and learn about the bones of the earth, as we discover, explore and create – ROCKS!

March 20/21: Waters: The reason our planet Earth is able to support such a diversity of life is because of one very special feature – WATER! Our planet is mostly water- and our very survival depends on it! Come today and explore some fascinating facts about water, as we perform some water experiments, and follow a drop of water on its incredible journey.

March 27/28: Invertebrates: About 95% of all animals on Earth are invertebrates; animals without a backbone or internal skeleton. Some may be soft and squishy, and some may have a hard shell or exoskeleton. There are over a million different kinds. Come today and learn about our incredible invertebrates, while we meet a few up close and personal!

April 3/4: Plant Life: Plants and trees have colonized our earth for well over 400 to 500 million years. They created the atmosphere that allows us to breathe. Please join us as we partner with the plants to learn about their very important role on earth.

April 10/11: Vertebrates: About 5% of all animals on Earth have a backbone like us. Today we will look at the five classes of animals with an internal skeleton. Can you name all five? Come today to play some bone-matching animal games!

April 17/18: The Earth is Our Home: We've explored many of the things that make our planet unique and enable us to call it our home! From rocks to water to plants to animals; all that shares the earth with us is an amazing gift to behold. Come today as we celebrate Earth Day and learn some ways to protect our home by celebrating Earth Day every day.

Spring series 2: Spring Celebration

May 1/2: Signs of Spring: Spring is in full fling and we're feeling all the signs! Days are warmer and longer, and the earth is turning all the colors of green. Can you feel it? Can you hear it? Come and explore the outdoors today with all of your senses as we look for the signs of spring.

May 8/9: Nesting Success: What better symbolizes spring than bird song, nests, and eggs! Birds all around us are getting ready to raise their young. Join us as we take a close up look at all that goes into their nesting success!

May 15/16: I'm Hungry, What Should I Eat?: What do you eat when you get hungry? Is it the same thing that a deer eats, or an owl, or a frog? Why do some animals eat only plants and some eat only animals? Let's learn about nature's food chains! Come and find out what the animals are eating now in spring, as food begins to become more abundant.

May 22/23: Amphibians All Around: Spring songs and migrations usually bring to mind... amphibians? Amphibian migration known as "Big Night" has already occurred, and now we venture out to listen for the choruses of frogs. Join us for some amphibian fun as we search for salamanders and hop like frogs.

May 29/30: Butterflies: Butterflies are truly the jewels of our fields and forests! Come and discover the world of the butterflies as we learn about their life cycle, their colors and patterns, and how they sense the world around them. We'll search for some of our favorite insects, play some butterfly games, and make a giant butterfly to take home.

June 5/6: Wildflower Wonders: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder- but who can argue the beauty of our wildflowers in spring? We've waited all winter, and half of the spring for color to return to our forests and fields. Come and discover the colors, shapes and wonders of our wildflowers today!