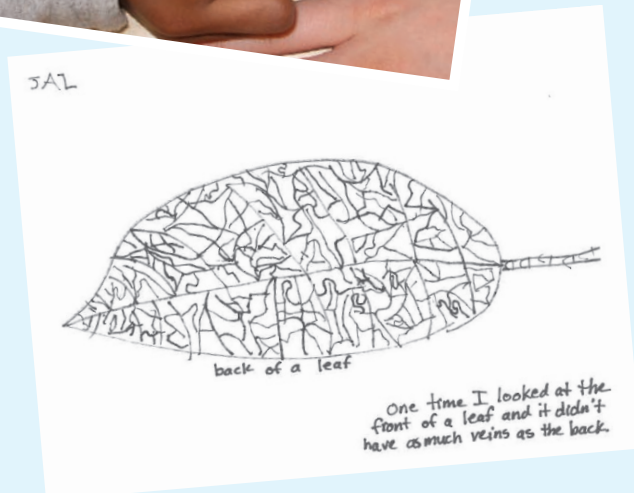


Looking closely at a simple leaf can be the start of a rich learning experience.



Your community is a partner in learning.

Many of your local institutions are open to the public, are free, or have family friendly admission-free hours. Look for and enjoy:

- Neighborhood playgrounds
- Walking/biking trails
- Community gardens
- Farmers' markets
- Local parks
- Museums
- Libraries
- Religious institutions



Check with your library, doctor's office, school, or community center for more information about free local events and organizations.

This **Approaches to Learning** learning guide has been created for families and caregivers of preschool-aged children. Please look for more information on this topic and Oral Language and Literacy, STEM, Social Emotional Health, and Physical Health and Well-Being on the EEC website: www.mass.gov/edu/birth-grade-12/early-education-and-care/curriculum-and-learning/.



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Learn!

Learn together with your child...



“Healthy development depends on the quality and reliability of a young child’s relationships with the important people in his or her life, both within and outside the family. Even the development of a child’s brain architecture depends on the establishment of these relationships.”

National Scientific Council
on the Developing Child

Build understanding through experience.

http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/reports_and_working_papers/working_papers/wp1/

Learning How to Learn

Look Closely and Notice

What do you see? What do you notice about the edge of this leaf?



Explore and Investigate

What changes do you see today?



Observe and Describe

Tell me about the size and shape of your leaf.



Wonder and Ask Questions

How does the texture of this leaf feel different from the other one?



Develop Hypotheses

What do you think is inside the leaf bumps?

Show and Explain

Your drawing shows me that you noticed that the veins make a pattern.

Reflect and Ask More Questions

What do scientists call the parts of the leaf?

Imagine and Create

Tell me about what you made!

