

Hudson's Summer Homework List for children:

1. Climb a hill or a mountain.
2. Hike a section of one of Connecticut's trails.
3. Walk, bike or skate along The Farmington Valley Greenway.
4. Canoe or raft on a local river.
5. Spend some extended time walking in our woodlands.
6. Climb a tree.
7. Learn how to use a compass and map to find your way.
8. Learn how to pitch a tent, make a fire and cook breakfast outdoors.
9. Make sandcastles on the beach.
10. Make mud pies.
11. Search for invertebrates in seaside rock pools.
12. Build a fort or lean-to in the woods.
13. Spend some hours making dams and bridges on little streams.
14. Try catching frogs.
15. Try catching fireflies in a jar.
16. Learn how to identify a few constellations and how to find the North Star.
17. Learn where north, south, east and west are in relation to your home.
18. Watch the Perseid meteor shower in August.
19. Build a birdhouse.
20. Ask your parent or grandparent to teach you how to whittle a piece of wood.
21. Be able to name the local birds in your neighborhood (use binoculars, learn to recognize bird songs).
22. Learn the names of the trees on your property or in your area.
23. Collect something and make a little museum at home (e.g. shells, rocks, feathers, postcards of natural wonders)
24. Keep a Nature Journal.
25. Dig for worms.
26. Go fishing.
27. Go for a night hike with a flashlight.
28. Care for your own tomato plant.
29. Plant your very own vegetable garden.
30. Pick fresh berries and bake a pie.

References for parents:

How Nature Works: 100 Ways Parents and Kids Can Share the Secrets of Nature (Reader's Digest)

Clare Walker Leslie: [Keeping a Nature Journal: Discover a Whole new Way of Seeing the World Around You](#)

Eugene Keyarts: Sixty Selected Short Nature Walks in Connecticut

_Smith and Laubach: Nature Walks in Connecticut (Appalachian Mountain Club)

Constellations of the Northern Sky (National Audubon Society Pocket Guide). Other very useful Audubon pocket guides for children are: Birds (Eastern Region), Trees (Eastern Region), Flowers (Eastern Region), Insects and Spiders, Animal tracks.

Happy summer!

“There is no description, no image in any book that is capable of replacing the sight of real trees, and all the life to be found around them, in a real forest.”

Maria Montessori, From Childhood to Adolescence

“The foot is noble. To walk is noble. Thanks to the feet, the child who already walks can expect of the outdoors certain answers to his secret questions.”

Maria Montessori, From Childhood to Adolescence