



Wild Wednesday Wildlife on the Move!

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Button Bug Camouflage Game – a game for small spaces; played indoors or out in a small yard. Find some loose buttons that your family may be saving. Find about ten bigger buttons of different colors. (If you don't have buttons, use cut out scraps of colored cloth or construction paper). One person will "hide" the button bugs on or near other objects that are similar in color. For example, a red button bug might be placed on the seat of a red chair. **Main Rule** – button bugs must be visible in plain sight! In other words, button bugs cannot be under, behind, or enclosed in something. They are to be "camouflaged" but findable. When all the bugs are placed, another person has to try and find all the bugs. Also, try using clothespins that can be colored over with crayon or marker. Clothespins can clip onto things and work well outside when it's windy. Safety note: be sure to collect back all the button bugs so they don't get into the mouths of small toddlers or pets.

Sounds Around – a listening game (adapted from *Project Learning Tree*).

First, prepare a page in your Nature Journal. Draw a large circle. Write the word "Me" in the center of the circle. Then, find a place (indoors or outdoors) where you can sit comfortably. Close your eyes (or use a blindfold) and listen quietly to the sounds around you for several minutes. Each time you hear a sound, point in the direction it may have come from. Try to remember all the sounds you hear. After a several minutes, open your eyes and create a "sound map" on your Journal Page. Put an X to show the locations around the "ME" at the center of the map where you think the sounds came from. Give details of the sounds using pictures or words. Use lines to show directions or distances. What were the loudest or quietest sounds? Cars? People? Frogs? Dogs? (Coyotes howling at night)! Squirrels? Birds? (Robins sing in early morning during spring and summer. Their song is like a carol of short up and down notes; a chickadee sings its name *chick-a-dee-dee-dee*).

A great book about listening to nature is *The Other Way To Listen* by Byrd Baylor and Peter Parnall.

M.R.H.I. Wildlife Bingo – create your own Bingo or Scavenger Hunt type game. A game sheet with a list of mammals, birds, insects, and animal signs that you can look for **is below**

Create-A-Critter – collect nature materials from outside like cones, sticks, bark, leaves, etc. and create some type of animal. It can be big or small. Maybe create an insect with six legs, or a spider with eight. Here's a picture of Barky the Toad made from tree bark, sticks and pinecones:

