



Here are some ways to have fun and learn while out on your walk through the Discovery Center.

**1. Make a scavenger hunt.** Write a list of things to find or for non-readers you can make a picture list of objects for them to cross off as you walk. Scavenger Hunt Lists

**2. Take Pictures.** Every kid loves to take pictures or be in pictures. Give your class an old camera, buy some disposable ones or help them use yours. When you get back to school, you can take those pictures and make them into a simple book.

**3. Nature Rubbings.** A fun way to talk about nature is to do some crayon rubbings on things that are outside. A tree trunk, the compass roses, the sidewalk, a leaf, the drain can all be great ways to talk about the textures in the world around us. *(Use crayon stubs with the paper peeled off and onion or tracing paper to make the best rubbings.)*

**4. Go on a butterfly hunt.** Take a magnifying glass and look at butterflies in the butterfly garden. Observe ants, beetles or any other bugs you see on your



walk. This is a great opening for other conversations like life cycle of a butterfly, or the difference between bugs and spiders.

**5. Turn your walk into an obstacle course.** Jump over those cracks in the sidewalk. Hop over the compass rose. Climb up butterfly hill, gallop around the monument circle, STOP! These are all ways to turn a simple walk into a listening and fun activity.

**6. I spy ...** A favorite way to keep your class actively involved in a walk is to play the I spy game. I spy the letter M. I spy something red. I spy something green. The possibilities are endless.

**7. What does that sign mean?** As you walk past any type of sign, ask them what they think the sign might mean. This helps develop critical thinking skills as well as familiarize your kids with the world around them.

There are several signs to look at in the Discovery Center. They explain what the structures represent. Each highlights a historical aspect.

There are compass roses along the walk. Challenge your students to guess what direction you are walking toward, or direction you just came from. What can we see if we face south? Looking west?

The mural on the side of the museum itself can be another activity as your class tries to identify the animals depicted on it. Ask them why the museum choose this side of the building to paint, why these animals, who was the artist?

**However, the most important part of any walk is to have fun while you observe the world around you!**



## Back in the Classroom



**Make leaf impressions.** Have the class bring in different types of leaves from around their homes. Make a batch of salt dough to press the leaves on. Roll it into a paper plate for each student. Students should press down hard enough so there are leaf impressions. Once the salt dough dries, students can paint their leaf impressions and have a nature-inspired piece of art.

**Collect and Dissect.** Go out and collect acorns, flowers, and leaves, then bring them to school and look inside them. It is a way to work on comparing objects and to see how things look on the inside. Students could research the names of the trees the objects came from.

**Gather “treasures”** for an art project. A walk is a great way to gather free art supplies. Encourage your students to go out and gather “treasures” with their parents or grandparents, then come home and let create something. Have the students bring the art to school and watch how amazed your class will be at their creativity.