

Networking Urban Resources with Teachers and University to enRich Early Childhood Science



EXPLORE

DISCUSS

THINK!

Nurtures

Try this at home!

Animal Habitats



Explore

Go to our website, www.nurtures.utoledo.edu and print off the habitat mats and animal characters!

Materials

- Habitat mats (pond, forest, arctic)
- Animal characters

Discuss

Ask these questions during the activity:

Why do you think that animal should live in that habitat?

What do you think would happen if we put it in a different habitat? Why do you think that would happen? (example: fish in a forest)

Can you show me how this animal would act in this habitat?

- 1 Lay the habitat mats on a flat surface and place the animals near the mats.
- 2 Ask your child to describe the animals and talk about where you might find them.
- 3 Encourage your child to PLAY with the animals and place them on an appropriate habitat mat. Ask them why they think the animals belong in those specific habitats and what would happen if we placed the animals in a different habitat. Could any of these animals survive in more than one of these habitats?

If you don't have internet access, you can try the activity above with animals in your home, community, or school!

- 1 Ask your child to describe the animals and talk about where you might find them.
- 2 Ask them why they think the animals belong in those specific habitats and what would happen if we placed the animals in a different habitat. Could any of these animals survive in more than one of these habitats?

Think

After talking about the reasons that different animals live in different types of habitats, encourage your child to create their own make-believe animal on a sheet of paper. Ask your child what type of habitat that their creature would live in and write down your little scientist's answer. Then hang it on the fridge or take a picture of it and share it with us on Facebook!

While you complete the activity, ask your child to explain their thinking. This strategy can help your child clarify their thoughts, as well as help you better understand their reasoning. Try asking your child the following:

"Why do you think that?" or "Say more about that."



