

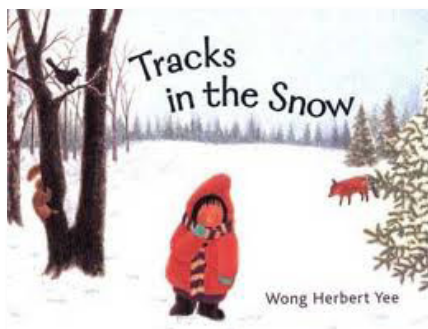
# Outdoor detectives

## Let's play and talk together

- ❖ Go on an outdoor walk with your child. Look around for signs of living things, e.g. tracks on the ground, feathers, cocoons, nests.
- ❖ When you find something interesting, look around for signs of life nearby.
- ❖ Talk about what you find. Try to guess who or what has been there. Wonder out loud with your child.



## A good read-together book



Tracks in the Snow by Wong Herbert Yee

This activity is good for helping children learn to look and listen carefully and to ask questions about what is around them. It develops curiosity and thinking out loud.

## Hints for success

- ❖ Choose a place to walk where you will find signs of other living things, e.g. in a park, at a beach, in the woods or by a stream.
- ❖ Be a model of curiosity for your child. Show how to be a detective by looking for things yourself and asking questions about what you find.

Let's look for signs  
of life along this  
path.

I wonder what  
happened here? What  
do you think?

**Ways to say it**

# More ideas for Outdoor detectives

## Try this way

- ❖ Choose a small patch of grass or soil to study with your child. Look closely at the ground for signs of insect life and other living creatures. Use a magnifying glass if you have one.
- ❖ Sit quietly with your child in an outdoor spot away from city noises. Listen for signs of life such as rustling leaves, scratching, bird calls or other animal sounds. Try to guess what kind of creature is making each of the noises that you hear.



## Early literacy

Look for the book **Animal Tracks and Signs** in your local library. Talk with your child about how all animals leave clues such as footprints and other signs that can tell you about them. Enjoy the pictures together.

## Book links

**Animal Tracks and Signs** by Jinny Johnson

**I Love Dirt! 52 Activities to Help You and Your Kids Discover The Wonders of Nature**  
by Jennifer Ward