

## Rainbow Hike

This activity can be easily adapted for preschoolers as well as older elementary age children. It is really geared toward 1st through 3rd graders

The objectives are:

- to become aware of the colors in nature
- to identify items in nature that correspond to a certain color

<b>Background:</b>	Everything in nature has color. Some colors are more abundant than others, however, all colors are visible. Green is the most common and blue is the least common.
<b>Skills:</b>	The children should know the basic colors.
<b>Age:</b>	Grades 1 – 3
<b>Materials:</b>	a box of crayons or paint chips (from the paint or hardware store)
<b>Activity:</b>	<p>Explain to the children that everything in nature has color. They are to find items that match their color.</p> <p>Give each child a crayon or paint chip. If you have very young children, you may want to divide them into groups and use a box of eight crayons.</p> <p>Take a short walk outside and give each child or group of children an opportunity to match the color to something in nature. You may want to keep a record of the items found.</p>
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>Once they have found at least one item that matches the color, ask them to identify the item. Have a short discussion on where those items fit in their world and its purpose.</p> <p>If the area is rich with plants, discuss why the plants are different colors (certain birds, bees, butterflies and other insects are attracted to a particular color. They assist with pollination.)</p> <p>Find out if any of the plants can be used as natural dyes.</p>
<b>Adaptations:</b>	<p>Take this hike several times a year to see the changes in the colors around them.</p> <p>For older children, use a variety of shades of one color. This activity increases their ability to discern the variations in color.</p>
<b>Brownie Try It!</b>	Outdoor Adventure (Hike)