



Little Creek Early Education Programs

FALL

The Fall visit provides an introduction to some of Little Creek's habitats and animals, both outdoors and indoors. The children begin the visit with a walk to Little Creek's prairie. Upon arrival they are each given a bug box with an attached ring of pictures showing some of the insects that inhabit the prairie ecosystem. The "rules" are then explained—do not catch bees (the teacher will catch some and show them to you), do not catch butterflies, since that could damage their wings, and whatever you catch, you must let go when we leave. The children are then helped in finding and catching insects, with each exciting find named and shown to others in the group.

After their prairie adventure, students then visit the museum to get acquainted with some of Little Creek's resident animals, such as the dove, rabbit, turtle and snake. After hearing each animal named and described, they are challenged to think about how they feel, how they move, and how they are the same or different from each other. Each child will also have the opportunity to touch each animal.

If time allows, the visit might also include a visit to the mulch pile to dig for insects using small shovels and trays. The visit ends with time for a snack at the picnic tables under the pavilion adjacent to the secondary classroom building.

SPRING

The Spring visit includes the opportunity to meet both baby and adult farm animals and a hike along one of Little Creek's trails, with a stop at the Log Cabin. The visit may begin in the elementary classroom building, where students are introduced to the lifecycle of chickens, from egg to adult. They are challenged to think about how hens, roosters, and chicks are the same and different, and how chicks hatch from eggs. Several baby chicks are brought out for the children to see and they are questioned about how the chicks look, sound, and feel. Then each child is given the opportunity to hold and touch a chick.

The visit continues with a trip to see other animals found during the spring at Little Creek in the barn, garage, chicken coop, and pasture, including a piglet, calf, lambs, adult sheep, goat, and hens. The children will have the opportunity to touch many of the animals and feed the sheep and goat at the pasture fence.

The children will also hike along the Log Cabin Loop trail, discovering some of the plants and animals that live in Little Creek's forest habitat along the way. The hike finishes with a visit inside the Log Cabin, a reconstructed dwelling from the 1850s, imagining the lives of the pioneer children who lived there. The visit ends with time for a snack at the picnic tables under the pavilion adjacent to the secondary classroom building.