

WHERE THE WILD ONES LEARN

Mushroom Nature Study

EARLY YEARS
AGES AROUND 3-5

THROUGH THE WILD LENS™

Shared noticing and nature play

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36-PAGE NATURE STUDY

One place to come back to

You might need: A familiar viewing place; optional camera or existing dated photographs. Choose a comfortable stopping point.

LOOK AT WHAT IS THERE

A child might spot a tiny cup, a folded edge or something different from yesterday. Follow that detail. There is no target number to find.

RETURN IF WANTED

Use a landmark to find the same place. An adult can keep a photograph without asking the child to produce a record. Compare only when it helps their interest.

SOME WORDS FOR CHANGE

“It looks wider.” “The edge is darker.” “We cannot see it today.” Keep a description separate from a guess about why it changed.

Make room for an ordinary visit with little visible change. Familiarity, anticipation and sharing the place can matter too.



Woodland leaf litter. ceridwen (CC BY-SA 2.0).

Mushroom soup to share

You might need: 1 tbsp oil, 1 chopped onion, 750g fresh shop-bought chestnut mushrooms, 2 garlic cloves, 500ml vegetable stock and about 100ml milk or suitable alternative. Adults check ingredients, allergies, tools and heat.

WAYS TO JOIN IN

A child might wash suitable ingredients, cut with support, measure, stir a cool mixture, watch or choose not to taste. Adults manage hot pans and blending.

A SIMPLE METHOD

Soften the onion in oil. Add sliced mushrooms and cook until softened and hot throughout. Add garlic briefly, then stock; simmer until cooked. Cool enough for the blender's instructions before blending, or leave chunky. Add milk or an alternative and reheat suitably.

FOLLOW AN INTEREST

Notice changes in size, smell or consistency without requiring answers. Soup is an optional food activity, using mushrooms sold for eating, never fungi collected on the walk.



Sliced mushrooms ready for cooking. Photo: Fastily (CC BY-SA 4.0).