

WHERE THE WILD ONES LEARN

Mushroom Nature Study

HOME EDUCATION
A FAMILY COMPANION

THROUGH THE WILD LENS™

Fungi, finds and questions at your family's pace

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36-PAGE NATURE STUDY

A companion for following an interest

FOR THE ADULT, TO USE AS NEEDED

Use the photos or a small bit of background when your child notices something. A younger child might make a pretend tiny umbrella. An older learner might compare repeat photos or ask what counts as evidence of decay. You can read, photograph or measure while they direct what to look at.

THE WILD LENS™

“Notice first. Interpret cautiously. Respond intentionally.”

Start with the feature they already noticed. “That one looks like a little shelf” can be easier to join than an identification question. Looking from the path or at a saved picture can suit a day with less capacity. They can change the idea, decline or stop.

Use wild fungi for looking where they grow. Keep shop-bought mushrooms separate for kitchen and indoor activities. Start with the chooser on p. 3.

Same Patch, Another Day

HAVE READY
A patch you can safely see from a familiar spot, or a photo you've already taken. A phone is optional.

SOMETHING TO SAY
"I can see the fork in that log in both pictures." Look for one landmark so you can tell whether you're seeing the same patch. Leave the fungi and wood where they are. A quick glance can be the whole return visit.

A QUICK LOOK AT HOME
Put two photos side by side if you have them. The photo below shows the sort of leaf-litter setting you might return to. Use your own pair to compare change.

IF THE INTEREST GROWS
Try the same angle on another day and date the photos. A child can direct the framing or choose one feature to follow, such as the cap edge. If a fungus first appears in a photo on Saturday, it may have appeared sometime since your last visit. Weather and viewpoint can change what you see.



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