

PLANTS & ANIMALS

Solicitous care for living things affords satisfaction to one of the most lively instincts of the child's mind.

Nothing is better calculated than this to awaken an attitude of foresight.

—Maria Montessori



PLANTS

For the infant we can provide flowers and fruit to explore by sight and smell; show her the shadows of tree leaves and the sound of their rustling in the wind. It is important for a child to spend some time in the outdoors experiencing nature every day if possible—in all kinds of

An atmosphere of love and respect for plants and animals, in the home, is the best foundation.

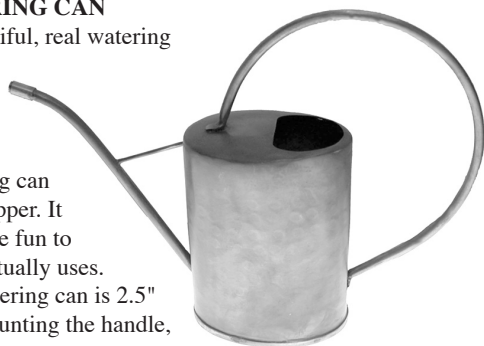
Nothing can substitute for walking in nature, hearing birds, looking for shells on the beach, watching the daily growth of a flower in the garden. From the very beginning of life it is vital to maintain the link between the child and nature.

COPPER WATERING CAN

From India, a beautiful, real watering can for the home or classroom.

Eventually the child will also be able to make use of this watering can for learning to polish copper. It is always better and more fun to polish something one actually uses.

The base of the watering can is 2.5" x 3.7" and the height, counting the handle, is 8".



DP0255

\$23.00

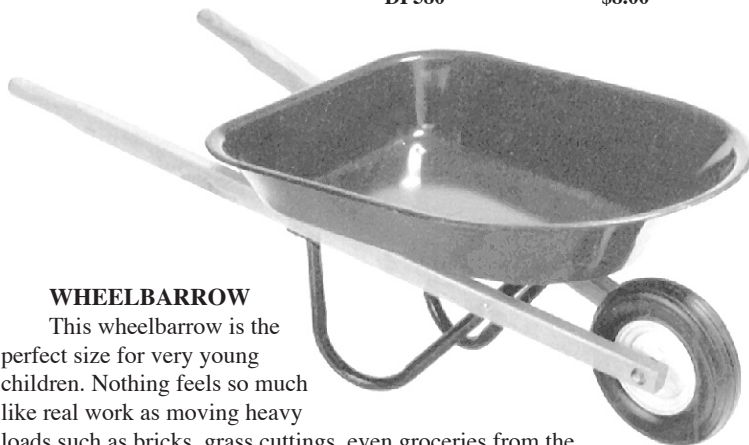
GARDEN HAND TOOLS

Tools of this quality and size can be used by the young child for indoor or outdoor gardening. Potting plants, planting seeds in a pot, or digging up the soil along with the adult.

The handles are natural wood, and the digging parts are painted metal: dark blue pointed trowel, dark green flat-edged trowel/shovel, red 3-pronged rake. The pointed trowel is 8.5" in length.

DP580

\$8.00



WHEELBARROW

This wheelbarrow is the perfect size for very young children. Nothing feels so much like real work as moving heavy loads such as bricks, grass cuttings, even groceries from the car. The seamless and beautiful red steel body is safe for the child—all edges rounded—and the handles are of natural wood. Dimensions: 32" x 14" x 10" tall.

DP78

\$56.00

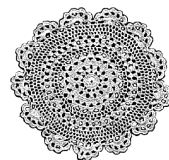
COTTON DOILIES FOR FLOWER ARRANGING

Flower arranging, and then placing the vase and flowers somewhere in the room, is a special ritual in infant community, and a way for a child to give to the family at home.

A child can cut the flowers or leaves from plants in the garden, and in the fall or winter use ferns, colored leaves, or dried flowers, arranged in tiny vases. The flower arrangements can be placed around the room on tiny doilies, and they add an elegant touch to the dinner table. These 4" cotton doilies come in a variety of round patterns. A set of 4.

DP81 Doilies

\$2.50



LONG HANDLED GARDEN TOOLS

We have looked a long time for the correct size of high quality garden tools for young children. These special tools look and feel exactly like the adult versions, each tool sized especially for young hands and designed to withstand the rigors of real gardening or sand play at the beach. The boxed set contains a garden rake, a leaf rake, a hoe, and spade.

The hardwood handles on these tools are 27 inches long and have leather hoops on the ends so the child can easily hang them up when the work is finished. The metal bases are painted red, blue, green, and yellow.

Suggestions: Teach how to hose off the tools after use and to keep the handles oiled. At the beach show the child how to make a "Japanese Sand Garden" with the two different styles of rakes.

CP100

\$28.00

NOTE: See the broom/mop stand on page 27 for a way to store long handled garden tools.



AGE 1-3 - PLANTS & ANIMALS

weather and during all of the seasons.

Very early in life a child will appreciate the variety of texture, and color of, tree bark, leaves, flowers, then looking at brightly colored pictures in plant books.

In the first three years of life the child is absorbing, without effort, every experience and the name of everything. Near the end of this period of life she will "explode" into language, using all the words she has been hearing. So from the

beginning we can use the exact words, so the child will be able to. Not just *flower* but *California Poppy*, and descriptive words such as *orange*, *small*, and *soft*.

If you are a gardener who knows the Latin or scientific names of plants, you will find that these are as easy for the child as the common names and what fun to learn them now.

If you are planning an outdoor environment that will be good for children, be sure to include a space for

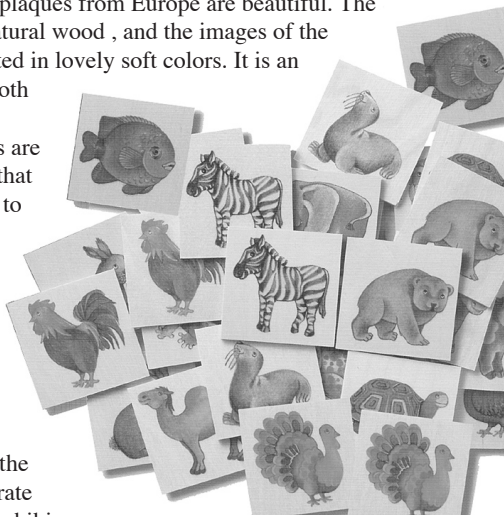
wild flora and fauna. Some of the best biological specimens are wild plants, such as dandelions and thistles.

When the child begins to walk, there is a lot she can do related to plants. Gather dead leaves from beneath a house plant, dust plant leaves, cut and serve fresh fruit, and so on. Simple flower arranging and leaf washing is enjoyed at this age since the child loves to do anything to do with water, pouring water into a tiny vase and placing one bloom on

WOODEN ANIMAL PICTURE PLAQUES

These little plaques from Europe are beautiful. The background is natural wood, and the images of the animals are painted in lovely soft colors. It is an introduction to both biology and art.

The pictures are realistic enough that they can be used to teach the child the names of animals. And the selection of animals is excellent preparation for later studies in biology as all of the classes of vertebrate animals (fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal) are represented.



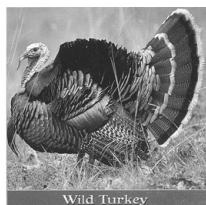
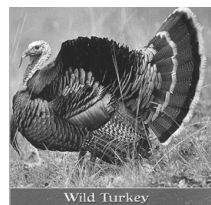
There are two of each animals, 18 pairs, 36 plaques, so the child can use them for the favorite activity at this age of matching identical pictures. Give just a few pairs, 3 to begin, in a little basket or tray. Show the child how to match. Then gradually add more and more till he can match all 18 pairs. The older child will enjoy using these plaques for the favorite game of *concentration*.

Birch plywood plaques, 2.5" square, Made in Germany.
CT500 \$34.00

NORTH AMERICAN ANIMAL PLAQUES

A boxed set of 100 cards, 50 pairs of animals from North America, that give the child much opportunity for matching identical pictures. The name of the animal is printed on the card so the adult can help the child learn the names.

A guide sheet is included that provides a paragraph of information about each animal, and the scientific name. The older child and adult will use these to play *concentration*. Each card is 3" square, printed on very heavy cardboard.



(* **CT490 \$13.00**)

NOTE: See plant and animal cards and books in "language" section

FLOWER PICTURES, Set/10

These lovely pictures of flowers from around the world are printed on wipe-clean coated cardstock, 11" x 11," printed in full color, and large enough for the child to see the details. On the back of each is a list of 10 interesting facts to stimulate conversation. Included pictures are: Saguaro Cactus, King Protea (shown), Foxglove, Passion Flower, Morning Glory, Arctic Pearlwort, Fritillaria, Cattail, Magnolia, Hydrangea. **NOTE:** See page 59 for information on our special frame that holds the entire set.

DL150 \$24.00



LARGE PICTURES OF TINY CREATURES

Insects are creatures that hold endless fascination for young children because they are so available in the inside and outdoor environments. Also, around one-and-a-half years a child has a strong interest in tiny things. However, because they move so fast it is difficult for the child to really see up close what they look like. These wonderful pictures alleviate the situation. There are three sets of ten pictures. They are printed on wipe-clean coated cardstock, 11" x 11," printed in full color, and large enough for the child to see the details. On the back of each is a list of 10 interesting facts to stimulate conversation.

BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS: Luna Moth, Tiger Swallowtail, 88 Butterfly, Blue Morpho, Japanese Emperor, Blue Triangle, Queen Alexandra's Birdwing, Apollo, Madagascan Sunset Moth, Spanish Moon Moth.

INSECTS, Set I: Two-spotted Ladybird Beetle, Giant Walkingstick, Green Darner Dragonfly, Housefly, Differential Grasshopper, Little Black Ant, Subterranean Termite, Periodical Cicada, Monarch Butterfly, Golden Northern Bumblebee.

INSECTS, Set II: Praying Mantis, Tsetse Fly, Dogband Beetle, South American Firefly, Green Stink Bug, Treehopper, Stephen's Island Weta, Atlas Beetle, Giant Lacewing, Lantern Bug. **NOTE:** See page 59 for information on the frame that holds an entire set of 10 pictures.

DL354 Butterflies/Moths, Set/10 \$24.00
DL355 Insects, Set I, Set/10 \$24.00
DL358 Insects, Set II, Set/10 \$24.00



AGE 1-3 - PLANTS & ANIMALS

the table on a cotton doily for the family meal.

Having garden tools and a small wheelbarrow and helping to carry grass cuttings or anything else that needs to be transported is an excellent way to involve the child with the yard work. But even one pot with one plant is better than nothing where there is no garden. A large clay pot can actually serve as a great ever-changing seasonal garden for the family, and is just the right size for

the child to participate in the gardening in the early years.

NOTE: Be sure that house and garden plants are safe for children.

Beautiful pictures of plants and flowers, sometimes examples from great works of art, can be hung on the wall; and you may be surprised at a child's preference for nonfiction books about nature when she has been kept in touch in this way.

ANIMALS

Animals are best observed free in nature rather than in cages. Hang a bird feeder just outside the window and show the child how to sit quietly so that the birds won't be afraid.

Binoculars give the child a feeling of participating in the birds' activities, and allow the child to watch birds from a distance. Having temporary tadpole guests, and watching cocoons hatch is a truly magical experience for the child.

HAND-PAINTED ANIMAL MODELS

These toys have many uses for the child under the age of 3. As in all early language, we build on an experience. After seeing a dog, show her the *pet* animal models, or after a visit to a farm, the *farm* animal models. In the Montessori Infant Community they are gathered by set and kept in special language bags so that the child will learn to classify them but in a subtle way into *farm* or *woodland* or *sea life*, animals as she explores the individual animal models with her fingers and eyes, and then puts them back into the correct bag. (See page 46, *Language Object Bag*) After some exploration, being in the sensitive period for language, she will want to know the exact name of each animal.

Animal models like these have been a favorite toy of children for many, many years, played with by the hour with blocks, cardboard box caves, and barns of the child's creation. They will grow with the child and be played with for many years.

It has become more and more difficult to find animal models of high quality, avoiding the plastic materials that emit toxic gases. Finally we have found a company which has for years made the highest quality animal replicas and is now overseeing the same quality production in China—which will keep the price down. A sculptor creates a model in the desired size. After experts review the model for accuracy, specialists then cast "insets" out of metal, which in turn are used to create injection moulds. With these moulds, raw figurines called "blanks" are created from softly rounded plastic. These blanks are then hand color-decorated. The resulting figurines are very realistic and wonderfully detailed. The sizes vary from 2" to 6".

NOTE: sometimes the exact collection of animals for a set is not available because the manufacturer is constantly upgrading the collection and replacing old ones with new. We always select the best substitute we can find at the time that you order. Here are examples of typical collections:

FARM—pig, goose, cow, hen, rooster, goat, sheep, horse.

PETS—parakeet, rat, German Shepherd, Dalmatian, Siamese cat, rabbit, Guinea pig.

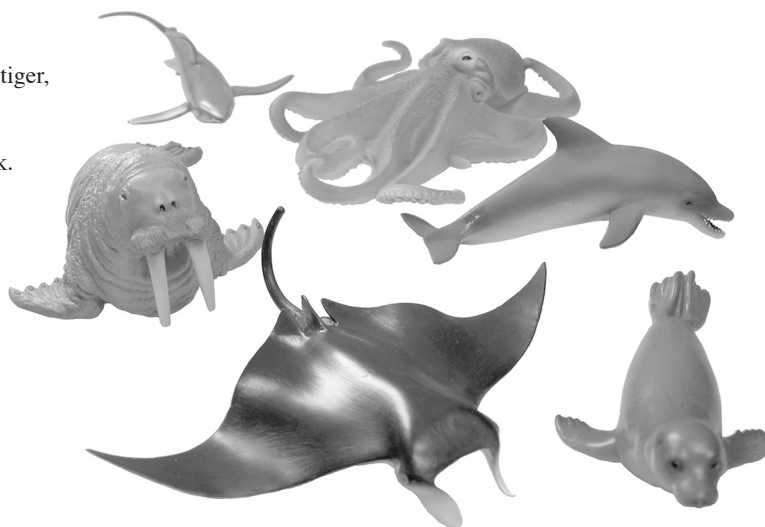
WOODLANDS—deer, squirrel, beaver, badger, fox, bear, wolf.

JUNGLE/SAVANNAH—lion, zebra, bison, elephant, alligator, tiger, giraffe, rhinoceros, camel.

SEA LIFE—manta ray, shark, seal, dolphin, octopus, manatee.

BIRDS—ostrich, stork, eagle, penguin, owl, toucan, parrot, duck.

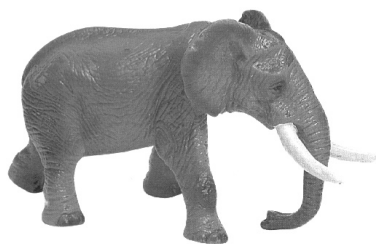
CA300 Farm Animals, Set/8	\$33.00
CA304 Pets, Set/7	\$23.00
CA307 Woodland Animals, Set/7	\$27.50
CA310 Jungle & Savannah Animals, Set/9	\$49.00
CA311 Sea Life, Set/6	\$39.00
CA312 Birds, Set/8	\$33.00
CA315 Classroom Set, all 45 animals	\$200.00



sea life set/6



birds/8



jungle, savannah/9



farm/8



pets/7



woodland/7

AGE 1-3 - PLANTS & ANIMALS

It provides the experience of seeing a creature close up without having to keep it permanently out of its natural setting.

Because wild animals are less accessible to the children than plants, we suggest observing birds, insects, and other animals in nature, and after this experience, providing more animal models, pictures, and books about them—picture books, beginning reading books, and reference books.

Playing with animal models and

blocks has always been a favorite open-ended-toy choice of children. Please be sure that your child's animal models are made of safe plastic instead of toxic plastic materials. We find that the ones made by European companies are safe for children at this age.

We focus on the child's natural love for and affinity with nature, and the tendency to want to touch, hold, and care for nature specimens such as rocks, shells, seeds, flowers and leaves, insects,

kittens—all things living and nonliving.

Animal models and books can help the child explore animals outside their immediate surrounding and learn even more names.

Another gift from our children comes to the adult when we slow down, to follow the interests of the child, to learn to be in the moment, appreciating nature that is all around us, taking the time to listen, to taste, to see, to feel, to appreciate.

MAMA MAMA

A favorite board book for even the very youngest child. Each two-page spread shows a gentle, nurturing scene of mother and baby animal and a short and simple four line poem, perfect for this age. For example the mother and baby lion poem is *Mama, Mama, nuzzle, hug. I'm your little golden cub*. The animals, from around the world, are lion, leopard, chimpanzee, koala, panda, elephant, and otter. Board, full color, 7" x 7".

CB085 \$7.00



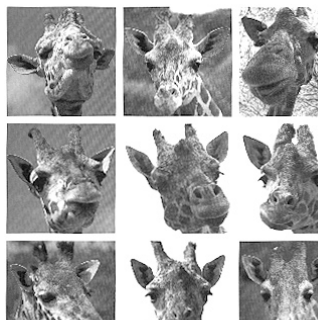
ANIMAL FACES

The focusing distance of the newborn is exactly the distance from the child's eyes to the face of the person holding her. Interest in faces is programed in to us from birth.

Children remain fascinated by faces of all kinds, and they love these pictures. Just as human faces are unique, this book will help children (and adults) begin to observe and appreciate animals in a completely new way.

What a perfect match—a picture book of the faces of animals—at the time when a child is fascinated by both animals AND faces! The pictures, for example, of 21 different giraffe faces will show the child that each member of the animal family is indeed unique. Hardbound, 9" x 11," full color, 53 pages.

CB070 \$16.95



ANIMAL BOARD BOOKS

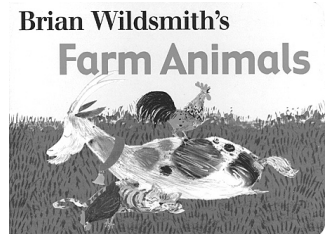
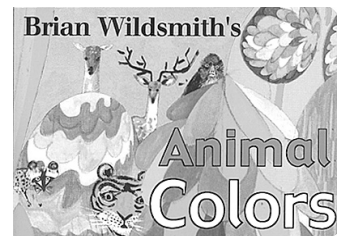
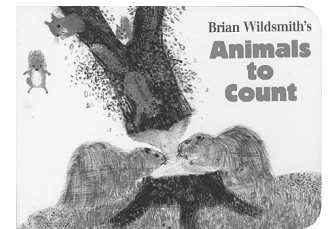
These important first animal books link the world of animals with the world of math, the world of color, and the world of the farm. And they do it with very beautiful art by the famous children's illustrator Brian Wildsmith.

Brian Wildsmith's art belongs, in our opinion, in an art gallery. We are proud to offer his images for children at such an early age.

These three books each show one kind of animal per page, 14 pages.

There are very few words. For example "goose" and "honk honk" on the goose picture. The books are made of sturdy board, printed in full color, 4" x 5.6." There are three titles in this set.

CB612 *Animals to Count* \$4.95
 CB614 *Animals Colors* \$4.95
 CB616 *Farm Animals* \$4.95
 CB618 Set/3 \$14.75



WHOSE BABY? 2-PIECE PUZZLES

Twenty 2-piece puzzles for the older child (near age three) to learn to connect the mother to the baby.

We recommend giving a few puzzles at a time and showing the child how to carefully put the two pieces together. On the back of the box is a vocabulary list for the adult: *elephant and calf, zebra and foal, seal and pup, penguin and chick*, etc. Each full color, cardboard puzzle is 2.5" x 5."

CA250 \$13.00

