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| Activity 9:  To Be A Tree  *Taking Neighborhood Walks* | Look for exposed tree roots.  Imagine how far the roots reach out under the ground. |
| Find a tree with a trunk that takes at least two children to reach around. | Find a tree that is the same size as you! |
| Look for seeds around the trees.  Are any sprouting?  Have any been chewed on by animals? | Look for trees with unusually shaped trunks, branches, and twigs. |
| Compare the trunks and branches of evergreen trees and deciduous trees. | Find a small tree and try to count its branches and leaves.  Imagine how many leaves are on a big tree! |
| Activity 10:  Trees as Habitats  *A Nature Walk* | Look for animals living in tree holes or leafy nests, hiding from predators, eating tree parts, perching or nesting in branches. |
| Can you find a vine climbing up tree trunks to seek and soak up sunlight? | Look for lichens\* growing on bark.  *Lichens are a symbiotic relationship between a fungus and an alga or bacteria- they are a living partnership (students may understand “friendship”).* |
| Look for mushrooms growing on dead or dying trees. | Look for snags or standing dead trees that provide homes for many animals. |
| Look around for fallen bark, fruits, leaves, nuts, seeds, or twigs that might show signs of animal life. *Who do you think left these clues?* | Look on the ground for animal droppings that show animals live in the tree or eat the tree’s fruit or seeds.  Look—don’t touch! |
| Look on bark for scratch marks caused by sharp claws or antlers. | Look up in the branches for broken twigs, nests, and holes. |
| Look at the small trees and shrubs near the ground for nibbled-on twigs and bark. | *Do you hear any animals?*    *Do you think they*  *can hear us?*    *What do you think they will do if we are very quiet?* |
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| Activity 10:  Trees as Habitats  *Outdoor Play* | Use the spoons and containers to scoop up leaf litter. Put individual critters in the ice cube tray to observe. |
| Roll over a dead log. Use paintbrushes to gently touch any critters you find. *How do they react?* | Put a white sheet under a tree, and gently shake the branches over it.  What fell down? |