Activity 2.3: Living vs. Non-Living

Overview: Students will identify objects as living or non-living.

Lesson Background:
Living and non-living items are categorized by key characteristics. Living items need food, air, water, and produce young. Animals and plants are living organisms. Non-living items do not need food, air or water and do not reproduce young. Although many non-living items were once alive, students will want to classify those as non-living since they no longer need food air or water and no longer can reproduce

Instruction:

5. Briefly talk about living and non-living things.
6. Assign a class volunteer. Have the student stand up and ask the class the four questions about living or non-living characteristics. Do they need food? Do they need air? Do they need water? Do they produce young?
7. When they answer yes to all questions, ask the volunteer student to stand in the box or hoop. (Students will think this is very funny!)
8. Next, ask students to explore the garden (or outdoor learning space) and find 5 different items. After the students have collected their items, students will put the items into a box or hula hoop labeled living or "I am alive" or Nonliving or "I am nonliving."
9. After students have collected the items as a class (or in small groups) ask students why they think the items belong in the boxes. Go through 4 characteristics of living items. If the students can answer YES to all four questions than the item will stay in the Living Boxes. If they answer NO to the questions place the item in the Non-living Box.

Core Subjects: Life Science

Grade Levels: Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

Setting: Garden, forest or other outdoor space

Objectives: Students will be able to classify objects as living or non-living. Students will learn the different classifications of each.

Materials:
- The outdoors
- 2 Boxes or Hula Hoops labeled Living and Non-Living
- 5 various living and nonliving items per student or per small group
- Additional objects (plastic spiders, paper cups, toy cars)