



Playcard Environmental Education Center Pre-visit Information Sheet
Loris SC 29569, Ph/Fax : 756-1277
Director, Ben Abercrombie

Playcard Pre-visit Information Sheet

Third Grade: Habitats

Grade	Subject	Science Standards Addressed
3rd	Habitats and Life Cycles	Habitat explorations of Field, Forest, Swamp, and Wetland. Habitat comparisons/contrasts. Life Cycles and Reproduction, Social Interactions and Group Behavior, Analyzing Fossils, Adaptation and Variation of Traits based on Environment, and Biodiversity & Human Impact, Forces and Motion. (3-PS2-1, 3-PS2-2, 3-LS1-1, LS 2.D, LS 3.A)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Students, working in cooperative groups, will explore the world of habitat diversity as it relates to Playcard Environmental Education Center. Students will explore several distinct habitat types from bottomland hardwood forests, beaver pond swamp wetlands, pine forests, to fallow fields. Students will compare and contrast those features that enable animals to survive in these particular habitats. They will explore how animals have developed specific adaptations, both physical and behavioral, to successfully compete in the wild by exploring and experiencing the competitive spirit of animals through predator/prey relationship role play and catching, collecting, and cataloging creatures from the habitats. Students will also explore the effects that humans have on animal and plant habitats through real-life examples. Life cycles of local species of plants and animals will be seen firsthand by exploring the hardwood forest and black water swamp habitat.

VOCABULARY (The following words will be used in your program. If possible, please investigate their definitions.)

[Invertebrate](#)

[Vertebrate](#)

[Camouflage](#)

[Predator/Prey](#)

[Consumer](#)

[Nocturnal](#)

[Habitat](#)

[Adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

CONCEPTS TO DISCUSS WITH STUDENTS BEFORE YOUR VISIT:

1. Discuss the major habitat types of Playcard with students. (Please see habitat types above.)
2. Discuss how behavior as well as physical characteristics may help a species survive.

Preparing for your Visit

1. Please encourage students to wear clothing appropriate for the weather conditions and be ready to explore nature with all their senses. Note any allergies and be prepared for them.
2. CHAPERONES: Students should have a 1 adult for every 5 students. This is not a requirement, but does add to the program significantly.
3. Please bring ONE 1 GALLON SIZED ZIPLOCK BAG PER STUDENT for collections.

Post Visit Activity

As an assessment, each grade level is encouraged to create a learning, “feedback” project. These projects may be any appropriate feedback method as prescribed by the teacher. Some examples are, letters of what the students learned with drawings and/or photographs of the experience, learning logs, journals, projects (i.e. a bug collection, leaf collection, nature journal, copy of presentation, etc.)

Digital Journaling: Using the free [inaturalist](#) app please identify evidence of schoolyard wildlife and document it on their website if possible.

Video Extensions:

Feel free to view any of these videos to supplement your field experience to Playcard.

[Forever Wild! History of Playcard Environmental Education Center with Mr. James P. Blanton](#)

This television show is dedicated to the founding father of Playcard Environmental Education Center Mr. James P. Blanton and speaks about the history of Playcard and the importance of conservation education for future generations.

[Forever Wild! Venomous Snakes of South Carolina](#)

This mini-episode filmed on the Playcard property focuses on the most common species of venomous snakes found in South Carolina.

[Forever Wild! Backyard Birds](#)

This episode of Forever Wild focuses on the popular bird species located in South Carolina during the winter/early spring with William Justin Johnson and staff.

[Forever Wild! Critter Catching on the Carolina Coast](#)

Enjoy the ecology of the Carolina Coast along Cherry Grove Beach SC by learning about all of the wonderful aquatic and beach creatures. Learn how to enjoy the coast with your children. Have fun on the beach!

[Forever Wild! All About Spiders](#)

Filmed on location at Playcard Environmental Education Center this episode takes a close look at local species of spiders and the unique webs they weave