



Chicago Zoological Society
Inspiring Conservation Leadership



“I Scienced” At-Home Activities

Recommended Grades: PreK-2



Over the next several zoo chats, Brookfield Zoo staff will highlight different birds, mammals, and fish. You will see much animal variety this week and we want you to celebrate the variety of plants and animals around your house, too.



Small plots

There is variety all around us, even in spaces that may not look different at first glance. Explore the outdoors and compare different types of small spaces in your yard or at a local park. Look closely at the different plants you see and even for insects.

With an adult, find the following items to take outside:

- Hula hoop or string that is approximately 12' long
- Notebook paper and pencil, or print this form and write in the space provided
- If you want to know exactly the name of each plant or animal species you find, we recommend you download the Seek or iNaturalist app.



Take these items and an adult, outdoors. Find a spot that you can explore. The location you choose can be in grass, in planted areas, or mulch or soil. Place the hula hoop on the ground or use the string to create a circle or square. Investigate only inside this small space you create.

What do you see? *(Write it down or draw it)*

How many plants do you see?

How are they different from each other?

How many insects to you see?

How are they different from each other?

Are any of the insects interacting with the plants? Describe.

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Now take your hula hoop or string to a second location that is different from the first. For instance, if you chose an all grassy area, then find a location that has more plants or a variety of plants.

What do you see here? *(Write it down or draw it)*

How many plants do you see?

How are they different from each other?

How many insects do you see?

How are they different from each other?

Are any of the insects interacting with the plants? Describe.

Make a statement about the difference between these two spaces based on what you found.

I observed



I think that

Animals or insects prefer



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This week, we look at the science behind animal care. Aside from some amazing animals, we will feature our zoo experts who will talk about research in the wild, the importance of healthy environments, and what it takes to prepare nutritious meals for animals at the Zoo.

As you watch these zoo chats, note one interesting aspect of animal care that is new to you.

Zoo Chat Animal or Topic	Nutritious Foods it Eats	Healthy Environmental Needs

Think about

In the second and third columns, you listed items that allow an animal or species to be healthy and thrive. If one of those environmental items were to change, how might it affect the species or other species? For instance, if fish are no longer abundant in the ocean or don't grow as large as they used to, how might that impact a dolphin's diet?

