WADE INTO NATURE:
River Adventures for Little Learners

Whether your family is splashing in a local stream or playing with a sensory bin at home, these activities will help little explorers connect with the natural world and learn how to protect it. Let's wade in!

1 Explore the River   AGE 1+

Fill a shallow bin with water, smooth stones, sand, sponges and scoopers. Dive in and use your senses to explore. Roll the stones and rocks in your hands. Take a scoop of water and slowly pour it out. How does it feel? Did you make a splash?

💧 Try dropping stones and other items in the water. Describe the sound you hear.

2 River Animal Match-Up   AGE 2+

Find some blue construction paper, blue crayons, blue felt or other materials to create a "river." Then, grab your favorite toy frogs, fish, otters, beavers and other animals. How does each one move through the water? What kind of sound does it make?

💧 Place the animals where you think you would find them. Who lives in the deep part of the river? Who lives by the shore?

3 Build a Mini River   AGE 3+

Use a foil-lined tray, rocks, sand and other materials to create a riverbed. Then, pour on some water and let the river run!

💧 Do the rocks keep the water in place? Or is the current too strong? What happens when you pour lots of water all at once? What happens if you trickle the water slowly, drop by drop?

4 Clean the River Game   AGE 4+

Build a sensory bin by filling a shallow container with water, stones, and other river elements. Now add some "trash" like scrap paper or bottle caps. Become a river protector and use tongs, nets or other tools to clean it up!

💧 How did the river look and make you feel before you added the trash? How about after? How can we help keep our real rivers clean?

5 Find A River Near You   AGE 5+

Take out a map and find the streams, creeks or rivers close to where you live. Where do they start and where do they go? What kind of animals would you see there?

💧 Talk about this river and why it's important to you and your family. What can you do to help protect it?