PRESCHOOL

Life Science: Living things have characteristics and basic needs

- Discover the basic needs of an animal at the ELC! Look around you and find some stuff that they might need to survive.

Earth Science: Earth's materials have properties and characteristics that affect how we use those materials.

Activity #1: Exploring Basic Needs- "The Life Box"

Objective: This activity is designed to help learn about four essential factors necessary for life.

Supplies: box of some kind, soil, bottle of water, potted plant (optional)

Procedure:

- Start with a little walk outside and ask your child what they need to feel good and happy. Try to get them to understand that they *need* food and water.
- Next, talk about what plants need to grow-- soil, water, and sunlight!
- Now it's time to build your box of life--
    - Grab your shoebox and put soil and a bottle of water inside.
    - Have your child open up the box and ask him/her what they see inside.. Tell them there are actually FOUR things in the box!
    - At this point he/she will probably be confused--- have them think about what else is *in* the box (AIR and SUNLIGHT).
        - To help them, try putting a lid on the box and ask them what's different inside now.

Wrap-Up/Extension:

- Go purchase a potted plant and see if your child can remember what will help make that plant stay alive and grow!

Source: Charles, Cheryl. *Project WILD: K-12 activity guide*. Project WILD, 1992.