



Collecting Nature's Alphabet

How did this project begin?

The project started when I brought in a book called 'Discovering Nature's Alphabet'. One of the kids said, "Let's go outside and find our own nature's alphabet"! We went outside and found letters. Grace found a B that was a flower. Then, when we were in first grade, we were invited back to work with kindergarten who had the idea to make letters out of sticks. We sat in a circle and shared what we did and some pictures of us when we were finding nature's alphabet. -Blake, Grace and Benjamin K.

How do you find an alphabet in nature?

You have to look really hard and take your time. If you go too fast and don't turn your head to look, you won't see anything. You have to slow down and appreciate nature. And then you can find some stuff that is really cool.

-Max H.

What have you learned?

We learned a lot this year. We learned how to take care of nature and that respecting the earth is better for everyone. I learned to love trees. I love fresh air. Letters could be in your name or outside or anywhere. You can think about them when you are sleeping or make them out of sticks and flowers. We worked very hard on making this book. We hope you like it. -Alyssa, Ella, Jean-Martin and Sophie Dickey

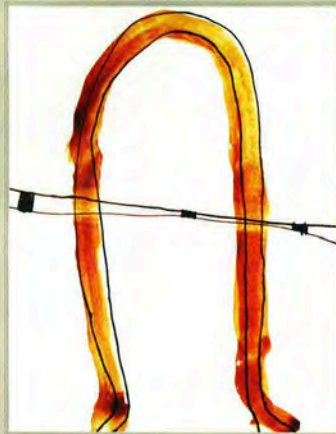
Uchenna Ogu and Suzie Schmidt, Kindergarten Teachers

Special thanks to Rosie Krekeler, Lisa Nagel, Melissa Ridings, Kathy Seibel and Liz Sullivan





Letters can be all different shapes.



They can have a u-turn.



Or a swirly in a shell.



Letters can be spirally.

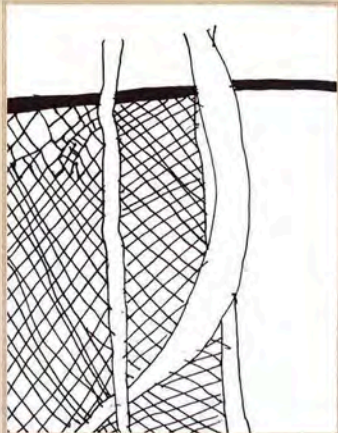


Or be a magic C in a patch of light.



Letters are hidden everywhere. You can find them in a tree.





You can find them by a fence.



And you can find them in a park.



You can even find uppercase and lowercase letters outside.



You can find letters in all different places.



Rock G and millepede g.



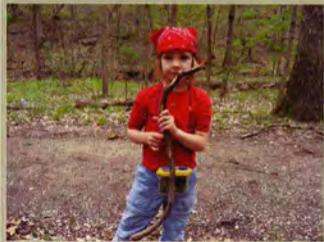
Awesome O is up in a tree.



P is hiding in the woods.



Look carefully and you might find a Q up in the clouds.

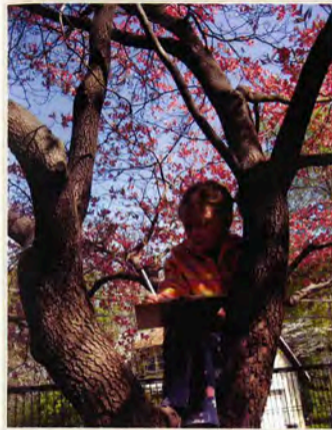


Find an R in the woods or in the fields.

You could find an S in a curvy growing tree.



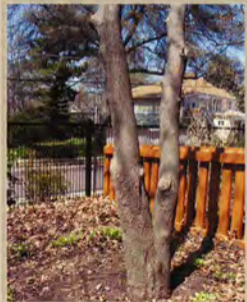
Find a T in the shadows on the playground.



U can be awesome and so can you!



A green and growing U.



A tree is a V.



Or a W.



Look carefully when you are walking.



Two magical diagonal lines.



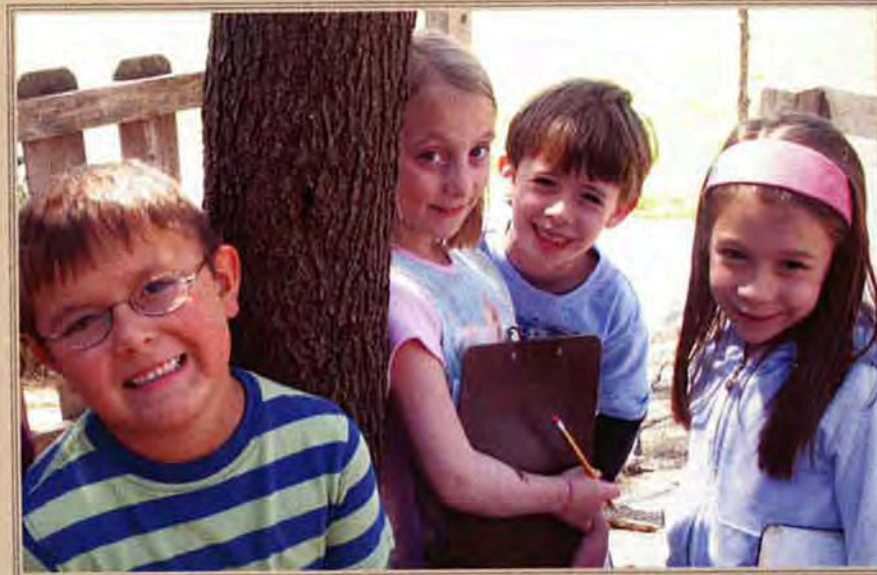
You can find "Y"s in the trees or they can be broken branches.



You can create a Z with flowers.



This is the final page of our collection of nature's alphabet.



The End!



The College School, www.thecollegeschool.org, in St. Louis, Missouri, is a private, independent, pre-eighth grade school where students learn through experiential, authentic, real world projects. This approach generates life long learning and leadership and inspires young people to produce exemplary, interdisciplinary work that informs and engages the wider community.

Copyright © 2010

Reprinted by permission of The College School

CADWELL COLLABORATIVE LLC
Sustainability Education and School Design

Cadwell Collaborative LLC, www.cadwellcollaborative.com, works with schools to build on and integrate traditional disciplines, to design and implement authentic, real world projects that align with standards, and to cultivate conditions for students to author exemplary work that engages and leads their communities toward a positive, regenerative future.



Collecting Nature's Alphabet

The College School Kindergarten and First Grade

Designed by Uchenna Ogu

2007-2008

© 2008 The College School

E558

Collecting Nature's Alphabet

R. Berger Archive

The College School