Kids Explore!

Naturebuild Your ABCs and 123s

Use natural materials to build letters and numbers.

Materials:

Note: Naturebuild materials can be anything from nature. Just don't collect the only one of something, all of anything, or in places you're not allowed to collect. The following items are just a few suggestions.

- Twigs
- Cones
- Rocks of different colors, shapes, and sizes
- Shells
- Seeds
- Dried grasses
- Pretty leaves
- Fallen fir or cedar boughs
- Acorns or filberts
- Driftwood

** Steps may require adult help.*

1. Go outside and collect a variety of interesting natural materials. Look in your yard, on sidewalks, in gardens, and in parks. Put your objects in a special "naturebuild" materials box.

2. Find an open spot outside where you can "naturebuild" letters and numbers. A field, a grassy lawn, a beach, or even a deck or patio will work fine.

3. Use your materials to build your letters from A to Z. You can choose a different kind of natural object for each letter, or combine objects that look nice together.

4. For a challenge, find materials that start with the letters you're making, such as the C for Cone or L for Lichen examples on this page.

5. Once you've made letters, start on numbers. Build actual numbers or create collections of objects in groups of 1-10.

*6. Take a photo of each letter and number so you can "keep" your creations.

*7. Make a digital book using your nature-built letter or number photos, or combine letter photos to make words.

8. Send pictures of your creations and we'll share them on our website!