Starter Kit for Parents

The following is a list of items that would help you in your foray to explore the natural world. They are recommendations only and you can substitute items, add items that you find helpful in your own explorations or simply do without. Web-site links are also listed below the list but you may also find the items locally – Ace Hardware carries a 5 gal. pail top for example:

1. Bucket Boss Seat w/ compartments for 5 gal. plastic buckets & 5 Gal. Bucket

* This is a great way to carry the individual items in your nature exploration kit and give you a way to sit and relax in the field when sketching, talking or examining the treasures your child brings to you to share. Any specimens that you collect can also be brought back in the bucket. Protected from crushing in pockets or backpacks.

1. Magnifying Lens

* Any plastic hand lens, but one that can be modified by drilling a hole, fitting a key ring loop and then attaching a lanyard will make it easier for your child to explore the tiny things around him and yet still keep their hands free for picking up or touching. Better yet, a lens that already has handle adapted for lanyards.

1. Aluminum Dual 6” Ruler

* The aluminum ruler will last longer than a plastic one, keeping a true edge for line drawing and determining the length of specimens or other collected items’

1. 60” Flexible Vinyl Measuring Tape

* Lightweight, waterproof this allows for taking measurements of tree circumferences or other irregular shapes without the fear of jamming or getting contaminated with dirt or debris.

1. Beginner’s Sketching Pencil Set –
   * Several different lead pencils for sketching/drawing observations in the field – they can be bought individually but a set will also give you eraser, sharpener as well as charcoal and rubbing stick to add interesting shading to your drawings
2. Colored Pencil Set –
   * Though not strictly needed colored pencils add interest and detail to field sketches. There are many different choices, qualities and quantities and it all comes down to the amount you want to spend and how many color choices you want to have.
3. Small Sketch book –
   * Sketch books should be able to lie flat and open to individual pages, have a hard cover and not be too small – 4” x 6” or 6” x 8” – are nice sizes that can be carried into the field easily but still be big enough to capture good detail in your drawings.
   * For a more in-depth look at selecting the right sketch pad for you see the short write-up later in the separate document - Selecting the right sketchbook is a personal choice.
4. Tweezers

* Tweezers are meant primarily to pick up small specimens and artifacts without damaging them. Prices range widely based on what their end-use is. You do not need medical grade tweezers but do want stainless steel and ones that are sturdy. A price conscious set both for closing or opening with a squeeze would be a good set to start with and see what you need for the explorations you undertake.

1. Bug Box
   * A Bug Box is simply a container that has a magnifying lens built into the top, allowing you to look at specimens under magnification and without the fear of harming them or having them escape. Make sure that they are at least 1” x 1” because smaller and you won’t have room for some of the bigger things you will find.
2. Aquarium Net
   * A small 4” x 4” net added to your kit will give your child the option to also explore streams and ponds to collect aquatic specimens.
3. Clipboard
   * A clipboard or any improvised flat surface to which paper can be fastened will ensure that there is a good writing surface for taking notes, drawing specimens or lay out items to be examined more closely with a magnifying lens.
4. Box Cutter or scalpel
   * When thin slices have to be taken or items cut open to view the inside such as a seed or flower stem etc. a sharp blade is of the essence -
5. Bucket Boss Seat w/ compartments - <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Bucket-Boss-5-Gal-Pro-Lid-10010/202332264>
6. Magnifying Lenses –
   * Educational Innovations - <https://www.teachersource.com/product/plastic-magnifier-individual/forensic>
   * Carolina Biological - https://www.carolina.com/microscopes-and-optics/magnifiers/10670.ct
7. Aluminum Dual scale 6” ruler – <https://www.amazon.com/Aluminum-Ruler-Pcs-Inches/dp/B01B0KXM1M/ref=pd_lpo_vtph_229_tr_img_2?_encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=0HPNJW33ACA2TF06TRRA>
8. 60” Flexible Vinyl tape measure - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000B7Q9FM/ref=asc_df_B000B7Q9FM5299884/?tag=hyprod-20&creative=394997&creativeASIN=B000B7Q9FM&linkCode=df0&hvadid=194946745349&hvpos=1o1&hvnetw=g&hvrand=17640419915789001526&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9003021&hvtargid=pla-313389356046>
9. Beginner’s Sketching Pencil Set –

AMAZON - <https://www.amazon.com/AmazonBasics-Sketch-Drawing-Pencil-Set/dp/B078J6ZRRG/ref=asc_df_B078J6ZRRG/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=366418880822&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=5524330075087334327&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9003089&hvtargid=pla-644439243546&psc=1&tag=&ref=&adgrpid=77666479193&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvadid=366418880822&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=5524330075087334327&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9003089&hvtargid=pla-644439243546>

1. Coloured Pencil set –
   * <https://www.amazon.com/Crayola-68-4012-Colored-12-Count-Assorted/dp/B00FX9DFAU/ref=sxin_11?ascsubtag=amzn1.osa.44dc9982-1d12-4ef3-8b3c-d139ea9752e0.ATVPDKIKX0DER.en_US&creativeASIN=B00FX9DFAU&crid=2G2QTKHEOZCS7&cv_ct_cx=color%2Bpencil%2Bset&cv_ct_id=amzn1.osa.44dc9982-1d12-4ef3-8b3c-d139ea9752e0.ATVPDKIKX0DER.en_US&cv_ct_pg=search&cv_ct_we=asin&cv_ct_wn=osp-single-source-earns-comm&dchild=1&keywords=color%2Bpencil%2Bset&linkCode=oas&pd_rd_i=B00FX9DFAU&pd_rd_r=242d0f6f-fdc8-4e7e-b261-9fc1947706ab&pd_rd_w=NGnK0&pd_rd_wg=6yMjb&pf_rd_p=35b32c02-1b41-4e49-9b89-0297af2446e1&pf_rd_r=Q3VF8TAK5ADWNSKHAN8Z&qid=1616947211&sprefix=color%2Bpencil%2Bset%2Caps%2C339&sr=1-2-64f3a41a-73ca-403a-923c-8152c45485fe&tag=bestcont06-20&th=1>
2. Sketch Book –
   * AMAZON - <https://www.amazon.com/small-sketchbook/s?k=small+sketchbook>
   * BLICK ART - <https://www.dickblick.com/categories/drawing/paper/sketchbooks/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI-9XHnqHT7wIVwbyGCh0YHAYsEAAYAiAAEgKMAPD_BwE>
3. Tweezers –
   * SHOP LC - <https://www.shoplc.com/gem-workshop-set-of-4-copper-and-stainless-steel-soldering-tweezers/p/2521304?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIlaHe9aLT7wIVUuWGCh2qQgxSEAQYAiABEgLhhfD_BwE>
   * AMAZON – <https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Insect+Tweezers&rh=n%3A3779181&ref=nb_sb_noss>
   * CAROLINA BIOLOGICAL - <https://www.carolina.com/browse/product-search-results?Ntt=Tweezers&Nr=OR%28product.type%3AProduct%29&tab=p&question=Tweezers&searchExecByFormSubmit=true>
4. Large Bug Box –
   * Creative Kids - <https://creactivekids.com/school-subjects/science/large-bug-boxes/?ref=StoreYa&utm_source=stry&utm_medium=trafb&utm_term=pla-296303633664&utm_campaign=storeya51>
   * Forestry Suppliers - <https://www.forestry-suppliers.com/product_pages/products.php?mi=21711&itemnum=53744&redir=Y>
5. 4” Aquarium Net –
   * AMAZON - <https://www.amazon.com/Best-Sellers-Pet-Supplies-Aquarium-Nets/zgbs/pet-supplies/2975465011>
   * WALMART - <https://www.walmart.com/c/ep/aquarium-fish-nets>
6. Clipboards –
   * Can be bought at any office supply store or where they sell school supplies. They can be plastic or metal have a compartment to contain paper sheets. How fancy you want to get is up to the individual but simplicity when going into the field should be taken into account.
7. Box cutter or scalpel
   * AMAZON - <https://www.amazon.com/Best-Utility-Knife-PACK-Cutter/dp/B01KIQREZ4>
   * Home Science Tools - <https://www.homesciencetools.com/product/one-piece-scalpel/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI9OyTqo_U7wIVhdzICh3B5A5gEAQYByABEgIeP_D_BwE>