Ways to Explore This Nature Play Garden

1- Hot Lava Trails- Pretend the ground is hot lava. Hop from stump to rock, trying not to touch the ground. How far can you make it around the garden without falling in?

2- Gravity Hill- Lay down at the top of the hill, and see how many ways you can use gravity to roll to the bottom.

3 - Play Stage- Imagine this stage as a castle, a spaceship, or a zoo. See what kind of stories you can come up with.

4- Tripod Play Hut- Choose a spot, arrange your space, and set up shop! Turn it into a grocery store, and organize your supplies. Or set up like a library, and nestle in to read a book.

5- Zig Zag Bridges- Balance on nature’s beams! Practice tight-rope walking on these over-lapped fallen logs. Nature’s circus tent is all around you!

6- Pebble Pond- Test the waters of this pond. Scoop up pebbles, pile on a rock, and organize biggest to smallest. Then run under water and watch them change color.

7- Do-it-Yourself LeanTo - Build a shelter with things you find, both big and small. Some things are quite heavy and may require a friend to move them.

8- Stump Soup Kitchen- Gather nature’s ingredients and make a giant stew to serve your friends. Make a recipe of 3 seed pods, 10 pebbles, and five leaves. Delicious!

9- Boulder and Bush Maze- Wind your way through the boulders. Play big and jump from rock to rock. Or play small- bring a toy car from home and drive it through gigantic canyons.

and Why Your Children Will Thank You!

- Children who organize their own play are practicing important skills that sharpen their problem-solving abilities.

- Nature’s uneven surfaces are ideal for small children to explore balancing and jumping.

- The intimate kid-sized spaces in this garden are great places for young children to feel in charge and build confidence.

- Carrying large objects together helps children develop cooperation and social self-control.

- Look for “nature’s toys”, such as acorns, with your children. You’ll help them pay attention to their surroundings, appreciate the changing seasons, and feel good about their natural world.