

FAMILY SCIENCE TIME

summer, winter, indoors and out.

Quebec-born Queen's University ecologist John Smol is one of Canada's most honoured scientists. Smol believes that all children are interested in science in a deep and profound way. They just need to be exposed to the world around them to excite this interest. "All scientists do," says Dr. Smol, "is observe, understand, and explain the world around us. Getting kids out in nature puts them on the road to being scientists... and once they see how interesting the natural world is, they will be less prepared to allow industries and developers to destroy it."

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- 💡 Go for nature walks and take note of the vegetation and animal life in your area;
- 💡 Set up a bird feeder in winter and note which birds come to feed and when;
- 💡 Support your child's passion for collecting rocks or seeds or shells;
- 💡 Have your child join Scouts or Guides to participate in their many outdoor programs.



INDOOR ACTIVITIES

- 💡 Read the community newspapers to keep track of ecological issues arising in your community. Is town council planning to demolish a nuisance beaver dam or ban certain pesticides? Talk about it with your kids;
- 💡 Watch science and nature programs on TV. Visit a science museum. Subscribe to nature magazines;
- 💡 Visit the library. If you don't see any up-to-date or age-appropriate science and nature books and magazines for children, ask the librarian to order some;
- 💡 Use age-appropriate reference material. There are many science websites and apps designed for children.

