

The "Animals Up Close" program, a guided nature walk at any natural area in Broome County and a 4-H Education Center at Finch Hollow museum visit are offered to all preschools, day care centers, nursery schools, and other facilities serving children ages 3 through 6. Programs are free of charge.

ANIMALS UP CLOSE is a lively, hands-on presentation designed to create awareness of common local animals. A small collection of mounted animals and/or various props and natural "artifacts" are used in this participatory program. The final 5-10 minutes of this 45 minute presentation is set aside for children to touch and examine the mounts and other props.

"Animals Up Close" topics include:

ANIMAL COVERINGS

Examine feathers, fur, shells, skin and scales in this hands-on presentation.

ANIMALS IN WINTER

Winter in Broome County is a difficult time of year for many animals. Learn about migration, hibernation, and other methods animals use to cope with cold and snow.

BIRDS & MAMMALS UP CLOSE

Common local mammals and birds are shown and discussed, with focus on the differences between these animal groups. (A student will be dressed up during this presentation.)

INSECTS UP CLOSE

Learn about different kinds of insects through pictures, puppets, and other props in this discussion of insect characteristics! Children will think about the importance of bees, differences between insects, and insect relationships with the larger environment. (A student will be dressed up during this presentation. This program is suitable for ages 4 and up).

BIRDS UP CLOSE

Beaks, feathers, and wings, oh my! These and other features will be emphasized using mounts of some local birds. Children will examine and compare different types of birds. (A student will be dressed up during this presentation.)

COMPOST STEW WITH WORM BIN DISCOVERY

Literacy and Science come together! Discover the "ingredients" for compost through an interactive read-aloud of Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth by Mary McKenna Siddals. This rhyming story provides the perfect lead-in to an up-close discovery of "Compost Stew" and the wiggly creatures that help create it.