

# First Grade Fall Training Script

## Animals and what they need to survive (Total time: 60 minutes)

**Materials:** Clipboard, pencil, Walk Leader's observation sheet, magnifying glasses and bug boxes.

### Objectives:

- Learn what animals need to live
- Explore how different habitats meet these needs.
- Compare fall resources with summer food sources and shelter.
- Observe birds and other common animals.

### Introduction [5 minutes]

**Say:** *Today we will talk about what animals need to survive and then go explore different habitats to see how animals find what they need there.* **Tell students** they will observe animals and evidence of animals in their habitat and the group will record what it finds. We will compare food and shelters found in summer to that found now [fall]. Remind children to use only eyes, ears and nose when in the field and touch only when adult says ok.

**Ask:** *When are larger animals active? (deer, fox, rabbits, coyotes, skunks, opossums) Early morning & evening. Do you think you will see any big animals during the middle of the day? Probably not. What animals are active during the day? Birds, squirrels, mice, insects, spiders.*

**Tell students:** It's OK if they don't see many birds or other animals. Scientists learn a lot by exploring habitats and looking for signs of animal activity.

**Ask:** All living organisms need 6 Basic Elements to Live, what are they?

**Food:** *Who had breakfast this morning?* **Water:** *Rain, puddles, dew – whose shoes are wet?*

**Air:** *Is everyone breathing?* **Warmth:** *Who is wearing a jacket/sweater?* **Shelter:** *Who woke up in a house or apartment?* **Protection:** *Is anyone's house in the middle of a highway (128)? How do we protect ourselves from mosquitoes?*

### Visit Habitats [35 minutes]

While walking across the schoolyard,...**Ask:** *How should you behave if you want to see some animals? Walk slowly and quietly. Is the schoolyard and woods our homes or the animals' homes? How many different bird and animal sounds can you hear?*

#### Questions to ask at each site:

- What animals do you think you would find in this habitat? (A place where the animal has everything to survive)
- Quiet and stand still what do you hear? Feel? Smell? See?
- How many animals home can we find in this habitat?
- Find examples of the 6 things needed to survive: Food, Water, Air, Shelter, Warm, Protection

#### Record Observations on Worksheet

- Walk slowly and quietly so don't frighten animals. If stay hidden then afraid of us.
- Record the children's observations and animal discoveries.

### Admin bldg –Standing near Red Cedar to the left of the door

- What animals do you think live in this habitat? (A place where the animal has everything to survive)
- Quiet and stand still what do you hear? Feel? Smell? See?
- How many animals home can we find in this habitat?
- What are examples of 6 things needed to survive

**Note:** Bird's nest in the red bell box, This habitat has water (in the gutters), food (yew and juniper berries, grasses), shelter (nest in bell box), air, and warmth (located in the sun).

**Open grassy area:**

- What animals do you think we'll find in this habitat? (A place where the animal has everything to survive)
- Quiet and stand still what do you hear? Feel? Smell? See?
- How many animals home can we find in this habitat?
- What are examples of 6 things needed to survive (live and grow)

**Look For:** Seeds, signs of a meal (holes in leaves), berries, rosehip worm castings, anthills, grasshoppers, dragonflies, spiders, webs, birds, hopping and flying insects.

Food Sources: Leaves (rabbits, mice, caterpillar, crickets, grasshoppers), flowers and seeds (mice, squirrels, birds)

**Edge Area:**

- What animals do you think we'll find in this habitat? (A place where the animal has everything to survive)
- Quiet and squat still what do you hear? Feel? Smell? See?
- How many animals home can we find in this habitat?
- What are examples of 6 things needed to survive (live and grow)?
- Note: Rich shelter, berries, Aspen gall, Woody stems eaten by rabbits, bees, beetles

**Ask:** What size animal can live here under shrubbery?

**Woods:**

- Walk into woods stop and ask what do you hear
- What animals do you think we'll find in this habitat? (A place where the animal has everything to survive)
- Quiet and squat still what do you hear? Feel? Smell? See?
- How many animals homes can we find in this habitat?
- What are examples of 6 things needed to survive (live and grow)?
- Food: acorns, berries, seeds
- Signs of animals: eaten acorns, woodpecker holes, bark beetle, galls, eaten leaves. Scat from deer rabbit fox etc
- Turn over rotting log
- Leaf miner, beetle bark tunnels

**Wrap up [5 minutes]:**

- Is schoolyard a good habitat for birds and other animals? Why do think so?
- What parts of the schoolyard are the best habitat for wildlife?
- Are these the same habitats that are the best for children to live? Why?
- Can children and wildlife share this habitat?
- Do you think birds and other animals feel safe here? Why?