

Making the Grade: School Program Menu for Kindergarten 2025-2026



Katie Cantu kcantu@jasperia.org

Greg Oldsen goldsen@jasperia.org

The following is a list of presentations offered to kindergarten classes in Jasper County. This is not a complete list, and for other options or questions about a program, please contact the naturalists. We work with teachers to fit our programming with their curriculum!

- All programs are free and materials will be provided unless otherwise noted.
- Although descriptions are for in-class, all programs can be adapted for outdoor locations.
- Please call or email at the beginning of the school year to guarantee your desired day and time.
- Plan for 30-40 minutes per program.
- Have your students come up with a list of questions for the naturalists before the scheduled program time.
- Please plan to sit with your class and enjoy the presentation along with them!

Migrating Monarchs

Storybooks, a puppet and pictures will be used to demonstrate the monarch butterfly's life cycle and special adaptations. A brief discussion on migration will be followed by tagging monarch butterflies (naturalist will provide, or, tag classroom-raised butterflies). The monarchs will be released in the schoolyard. This program is only offered the first 2-3 weeks of September while the monarchs are migrating.

***K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1, K-ESS3-3**



Turkey Talk

Here's a great program for November! The naturalist will share information about wild turkeys using a puppet, books and pictures. Students will learn a little history about wild turkeys in Iowa, look at real feathers and learn other cool facts about Thanksgiving's #1 bird!

***K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1**

Caring for the Earth

Students are introduced to the importance of environmental awareness and conservation as they become familiar with the earth's natural resources, where "stuff" comes from, and how people's actions affect the environment.

***K-ESS3-3**



Snowflakes

Students will explore the origin of snow. What is it? Where does it come from? Why are snowflakes so special? We'll read a story, dramatize a falling snowflake, and make our very own unique snowflakes. Some of the concepts we cover include seasonal weather observations, symmetry, hexagons and groups of six.



***K-GA2, K-GA3, K-ESS2-1**

Groundhog's Day

A discussion on the life of groundhogs will be led using a puppet and other pictures. Students will make connections by learning about Punxsutawney Phil, predicting what will happen on Groundhog's Day this year, and learning what that means for us! The class will also make groundhog headbands (scissors and staplers are needed) and sing a groundhog song!

***K-LS1, K-ESS2-2**

Turtle Crossing

A turtle story will be used to highlight the painted turtle's life cycle and habitat. Comparisons will be made between different kinds of turtles. A live turtle will be brought to the classroom for the students to observe and make discoveries with!

***K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2**



The Curious Garden

Peter Brown's "Curious Garden" will be read to the class. The book shows a young boy's journey to turn a dark and gloomy city into a diverse, vibrant garden. Using a matching board students learn about how the fruits and vegetables we eat grow. Each class will be given flower seeds to start their own curious garden!

***K-ESS2-1, K-ESS3-1, K-ESS3-3**

Curious About Camouflage

Students will hunt for insects hidden within the pages of Ruth Heller's "How to Hide a Butterfly". We will discuss how camouflage can help an animal to catch it's dinner or to keep from being someone's dinner. Animal skins will be introduced as we brainstorm: Which animals and insects use camouflage? Why? The class will also play a game that illustrates just how well "blending in" really works.

***K-LS1-1**



Kindergarten Field Trip

We offer a spring field trip for kindergarten classes at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve. The day is divided into 5 or 6 stations, focusing on animal habitats. We will explore the prairie, forest, and around the lake and compare what things live in those areas. Students will work on an art project that highlights those habitats.

***K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-3**

