

could be, “Well, the Moon is busy visiting other lands far away from here”. Can you yourself live imaginatively into phenomena so you can come up with an imaginative answer to your child’s questions? Remember, this is *not* lying – it is a way of meeting the child’s need for answers at the stage of consciousness she’s at, which is different from adult consciousness. It may help you if you think about how preliterate peoples of every culture explained phenomena around them – via myth, image, story and imagination. These stories – of the constellations, of why trees lose their leaves, of how salmon migrate and so on – are not lies. They are myths. Again, as I said earlier, there are many different ways a human being can think: the dry, abstract and logical forms favored by our society are only one way of thinking. Do not close doors on your child’s thought processes by insisting she think only in our adult ways.

If you are uncomfortable with anthropomorphizing animals and plants (as I am) then don’t. One needn’t (and I’d say, *shouldn’t*) be sentimental or fuzzy-wuzzy when telling young children nature stories. One needn’t talk about Mr Chipmunk and Mrs. Robin (though people who want to take this approach can use Jakob Streit’s book which is favored by many Waldorf teachers). And one needn’t give just facts either. One can find a middle way to imaginatively enter into both the reality of nature and of the young child’s state of consciousness.

Have a read of the nature stories that follow – you can memorize them and tell them to your child or you can use them to inspire your own stories (and I’ve only given a few, so you’ll need to do some of your own creating anyway). I do not recommend that you read them straight from this book – it’d be better if, at this young age, your child experiences that most things arise out of *you*. In later years you’ll do more “let’s look it up” or consulting books together.

In this section I have given:

- A list of Waldorf books which you can use to deepen your appreciation of Waldorf’s holistic approach to science
- A list of books by Waldorf teachers or used by Waldorf teachers during Nature Stories Main Lessons
- A list of books from the public library which you can base some of your lesson on
- Nature ideas
- Nature stories
- Nature crafts
- Ideas for your Nature Table

Please look for more information in the four Nature Main Lessons for specific seasonal activities and further ideas. There will also be many ideas in the following *Nature Ideas* section – do flip back and forth between all these sections and the outlines of