

What to Say to Kids Instead of "Don't Touch" Nature!

Help Your Child Learn About Touch by Saying:

- **Try touching with...** one finger, your fingertips, your palm, your wrist, your feet.
- **Notice how this feels...** rough, soft, slimy, cold, fuzzy, warm.
- **Can I show you how to...** touch gently, hold an earthworm, hug a tree?
- **How do you feel when you touch...** the tickly grass, the sticky mud, the rough bark?

Help Your Child Identify Harmful Nature by Saying:

- **This plant/animal can hurt your bodies, instead let's use...** eyes to look at it, ears to listen it, nose to smell it (i.e. rose on a prickly bush).
- **Notice how...** this plant has "leaves of three, let's let it be" (poison ivy), this spider is black, shiny has a red spot (black widow spider), this snake makes a rattling noise (rattlesnake)?
- **What's your plan if you spot...** a poisonous plant? a dangerous animal?

