Picnics

There are many opportunities for learning in the planning and enjoying of a picnic

- Make a list of items to pack for the picnic and let your child participate in creating it and packing it
- Ask for your child’s input on what you might need for your picnic in order to be comfortable – use questions like: “what should we use to sit on?” “What do we want to do after we eat?”
- Look for signs naming the place where you are having your picnic. If it’s a park, what is its name?
- Before you pull each item out of the picnic basket, describe it and have your child try and guess what it is
- Write names on paper plates, color them and cut them into unusual shapes to make name puzzles
- Hunt for shapes in the environment – fences, rocks, play equipment, restrooms, cars, tires etc.
- Bring along a ball to roll or toss back and forth. Keep a conversation going as you play
- Listen for birds and try and imitate them
- Pack up some books to read while lounging on your blanket (bring a pillow along for added comfort!)

Books about picnics:
- Picnic by John Burningham
- Having a Picnic by Sherry Garland
- We’re Going on a Picnic! by Pat Hutchins
- The Pig’s Picnic by Keiko Kasza
- The Teddy Bear’s Picnic by Jimmy Kennedy
- Picnic by Emily Arnold McCully
- At a Picnic by Dana Meachen Rau
- McDuff Saves the Day by Rosemary Wells
- We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past by Jacqueline Woodson