Second Nature - Habitats

Today we learned
A habitat is a region where different groups of animals live. We learned that habitats contain four key elements; food, water, shelter, and open space. Ask your child about the type of habitat they saw in today’s video. Was it a bear in a forest, a crab in a tide pool, a turtle in a river or a worm in a flower garden?

Now at home
Activity 1 - Habitat Scavenger Hunt
Head outside or to a nearby park to go on a habitat hunt with your child! Search for habitats of all types, shapes, and sizes. Look high and low for little creepy crawlers that might be hiding in the habitats you find! Turn over some big rocks, see any worms? What would a worm eat for food? Where do worms get their water? Does their rock provide shelter? Where is their open space? If you are unable to go outside, have your child choose an animal and search for photos online.

After, explore your own personal habitat—your home! Remember the four essential elements your family needs? Where do you find them in your family’s habitat? Where is your food source? Where are the multiple places you can find water? How does your house provide you with shelter? Open space? Next, ask your child if they think their school is a habitat. What are the four essential elements their school-habitat provides? Where can they find them?

Activity 2 - Build a Habitat
Ask your child to choose an animal they would like to build a mini habitat for. Get creative and assist your child in searching for items they can use! For example, they can use toys like Legos and building blocks, old shoe boxes, scraps of paper, toilet paper rolls, and pieces of cardboard. If you do not have materials to build a habitat you can simply ask your child to draw a habitat!

Here are some examples:
- A sea habitat for a shark
- A forest habitat for a bear
- A desert habitat for a camel

Ask your child to present the habitat they created. What animal lives here? Where are the shelter, food, water, and open space?