



Hikin' Tykes- TRACKS Resource List

Natural History Story books, illustrated

- Animal Tracks of Illinois by Tamara Eder, Lone Pine
- Mystery Animal Tracks-A Photo Riddle Book by Kelly Barnhill
- Tracks, Scats, and Signs by Leslie Dendy, Young Naturalist Field Guides

Picture books with natural history

- **Animal Tracks by Arthur Dorros**
- Big Tracks, Little Tracks-Following Animal Prints by Millicent E. Selsam, Let's Read-and-Find-Out-About Stage 1
- Follow Those Feet! by Christine Ricci, Ready-to-Read Level 1
- Tracks in the Snow by Wong Herbert Yee

Websites

- <https://www.eekwi.org/animals/tracks>

Songs & Videos

- Blues Clues Animal Tracks <http://www.nickjr.com/blues-clues/videos/119-blues-clues-animal-tracks/>
- Yo Gabba Gabba! Animal Tracks <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zHqbEdrx2Q>
- SciShow Kids, Animal Tracks Detective! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xz02S-CizAU>
- **Animal Tracks** story book <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BHPohCWeic>

Outdoor Exploration Activity and Lake County Nature Network* Suggestions

- Look for animal tracks & signs in your neighborhood or at other Forest Preserves. Adult care givers can use the next page to help little ones identify the PRINT and the PATTERN
- After a fresh snow or rain fall, find an animal track in the snow, mud or sand. Look for a trail and follow it to learn more about an animal's habits. Where is the animal going? What is it doing? Did you find its home? Eating place? Be sure to still follow the rules of the park or forest preserve.
- Walk along a shoreline—try to identify the bird tracks. Do they have webbed feet? Do they hop or walk?
- Look for animal tracks with four toes. Five toes. Toes with claws. Toes without claws. Tracks that look like little hands (raccoon or opossum). Little mice tracks with tail drags. Big coyote tracks, perhaps following the mouse tracks, maybe even to the holes where it hides.

Upcoming Hikin' Tykes programs and locations **No program in June

- Jul 21, WEATHER, *Register to receive a link to a 30 min. virtual live session and resources*
- Aug 18, POND LIFE, *Register to receive a link to a 30 min. virtual live session and resources*
- Sept 15, WOOLLY BEAR CATERPILLARS, Independence Grove Native Plant Garden
- Oct 20, CROWS, Hastings Lake-Shelter A
- Nov 17, TURKEYS, Greenbelt Cultural Center Education wing
- Dec 15, HAWKS, Ryerson Woods Welcome Center





Track Identification

Cat

- 4 toes on each foot
- round tracks
- no claw marks
- hind paws narrower



Rabbit

- 4 toes on each foot
- oval tracks
- front of skid has claw marks
- almost impossible to see pads



Dog, Fox, Coyote (Dog family)

- 4 toes on each foot
- tracks maple leaf shaped or egg shaped
- claw marks appear
- front feet larger



Raccoon

- 5 toes on each foot
- toes close together
- toes long and finger shaped
- claw marks appear



Opossum

- 5 toes on each foot
- toes spread widely
- toes long and finger shaped
- no claw mark on hind thumbs



Weasel, Skunk, Mink (Weasel Family)

- 5 toes on each foot
- toes close together
- toes short and round
- some partially webbed



Deer

- 2 toes on each foot
- front feet show dew claws
- hind feet step in fore feet tracks



Mice, Squirrels, etc. (Rodent Family)

- 4 toes on front feet, 5 toes on hind feet
- tracks are paired when bounding
- size of track is important in separating species
- may leave tail mark





Walking Gaits

Pace

(Raccoon)

Move both left feet together,
then both right feet



Bound

(Weasel Family)

Move both front feet together,
then both hind feet
Place hind feet behind front feet



Diagonal Walk

(Dog Family, Cat, Deer, Opossum)

Left front, right hind, right
front, left hind



Gallop

(Rodent Family, Rabbit)

Move both feet together, then
move both hind feet
Place hind feet ahead of front feet

