**TRACKING TUNNEL**

*Put a tasty treat in a homemade tunnel to find out what little critters are roaming your yard at night!*

**OBJECTIVES**
- CREATE a tool to find clues that you may not see otherwise
- OBSERVE and THINK CRITICALLY about clues found

**MAKE YOUR TRACKING TUNNEL**

1. Fold the cardstock or manila folder into a tall triangle-shaped tube. Staple the edges together along the top.
2. Mix water and food coloring – use plenty of food coloring!
3. Pour the color mixture into the plastic lid, and place a folded up paper towel on top, letting it soak up the mixture.
4. Scoop a dollop of nut butter into a small bottle cap and place it in the center of the paper towel sitting in the plastic lid.
5. Push the lid (with towel and nut butter) into the center of your tracking tunnel.
6. Find a location outside to set your tunnel and leave it overnight.
7. Return in the morning to check on your tunnel and see if any visitors left tracks!

**PREPARATION**
- Gather materials
- Dress properly for the weather.
- Find a safe outdoor space.

**DETAILS**
- Age: Can be adapted for any age
- Time: 10 - 30 mins prep, Overnight

**MATERIALS**
- Cardstock or manila folder
- Small plastic lid
- Paper towel
- Food coloring and water
- Spoonful of nut butter
- Small bottle cap
- Optional: substitute materials for any of the above

**SOURCES & BACKGROUND**
- In New Zealand, small mammal predators pose a significant threat to native bird populations, which are on the decline. Tracking tunnels are a tool wildlife managers use to monitor and manage their populations.
- In MN, they are a great way to learn more about your local wildlife!

*Let us join with children to imagine and wonder, to use curiosity as the guide to miracles in plain sight.*

- Amy Tam