

Connecting With Your Child

Energy Transfer at Home

Work with your child to find examples of energy transfers in your home and neighborhood. Take photographs of as many examples as you can find. If a camera is not available, have your child draw sketches and write brief descriptions.

You might start in the kitchen. Look at the ingredients that could be used for a meal. Where did the energy come from that will be transferred to the family at dinner?

Look in the yard or at a nearby park. Where are examples of different organisms that are producing or eating to get energy?

Spread out all the pictures or drawings and arrange them in pathways that show the transfer of energy. Don't forget a drawing of the Sun, where all energy starts, or a picture of mushrooms or worms, which break down materials to return the energy to the soil.

Questions to discuss with your child:

1. Where do you fit in an energy transfer path?
2. How many different energy transfer pathways are in the kitchen?
3. Where does the squirrel get its energy? What might get energy from a squirrel?
4. Can you draw an energy transfer path that includes you?
5. Can you draw an energy transfer that includes a squirrel?



Squirrels are common in many ecosystems. They are a good example of an organism transferring energy.