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## **It's Alive!? | Transitional Kindergarten (TK)**

Look over there! Is it... alive?! Learn what living things are while touring the Garden with an experienced Garden Guide. There's so much to see as you walk through the Garden grounds to investigate the differences between living and nonliving things.

### *Program Overview*

Students will be divided into groups of no more than 10 students for each group. Each group will then be paired with one of our volunteer Garden Guides who will take the group on a walking tour of the Garden and facilitate different activities. Activities include an interactive sorting exercise where students will sort objects into categories of either “living,” “nonliving,” or “came from living” thing; the other activity included is a group scavenger hunt and tally-keeping which takes place during the walking tour. Chaperones are expected to assist with some of the activities by managing the materials, along with managing student behavior so that our Garden Guide can focus on facilitating the tour and activities.

Please review our [pre-visit materials](#) prior to your visit. As a reminder, be sure to have your class dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and carry water bottles. Refillable water stations are available in the Garden.

### *California Preschool/TK Learning Foundations ([PTKLF](#))*

- **3.1 Characteristics of Living Things**  
Identify and describe characteristics of a greater variety of animals and plants and demonstrate an increased ability to categorize them.
- **3.2 Bodily Processes**  
Indicate greater knowledge of bodily processes (for example, eating, sleeping, breathing, walking) in humans and other animals through more detailed observations and descriptions.
- **3.3 Living and Nonliving Things**  
Indicate knowledge of the difference between living and nonliving things and



recognize that only living things (people, animals, plants) undergo biological changes such as growth, illness, healing, and dying.

- *3.7 Needs of Living Things*

Describe the needs of humans, animals, and plants for growth and survival (for example, food, water, sleep, sunshine, shelter).

- *1.1 Making Observations*

Observe and actively explore objects and events using their senses and describe their observations in greater detail.

- *1.2 Comparing and Contrasting*

Compare and contrast objects and events based on physical properties and functions and describe similarities and differences in greater detail.

- *1.9 Mathematical Thinking and Analyzing Data*

Use mathematical thinking to analyze and quantify their observations and answer questions that arise in everyday activities, with adult support.

### *Vocabulary*

- |                              |         |             |
|------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| • <b>Living</b>              | • Water | • Grow      |
| • <b>Nonliving</b>           | • Food  | • Nutrients |
| • <b>“Comes from living”</b> | • Air   | • Reproduce |

### *Resources*

- *Living and Nonliving (Nature Basics)* by Carol K. Lindeen (Ages 4+ / Grade TK-2)
- *Identifying Living and Nonliving Things: A Compare and Contrast Book for Kindergarten* by Baby Professor (Ages 4-6 / Grade K)
- *Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow?* by Susan A. Shea (Ages 5-7 / Grade K-2)
- *Are Trees Alive?* by Debbie S. Miller (Ages 4-7 / Grade TK-2)

California Botanic Garden

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### *Resources (Cont'd)*

- Learning @ Home: It's Alive! Or is it?  
[https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/5a6e317c7bd20a000184f439/5ff380a741985ac4de55c887\\_It%27s%20Alive!%20Or%20is%20It%3F%20Final.pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/5a6e317c7bd20a000184f439/5ff380a741985ac4de55c887_It%27s%20Alive!%20Or%20is%20It%3F%20Final.pdf)
- PBS LearningMedia: Living vs. Nonliving Lesson Plan  
[https://ca.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/tdc02.sci.life.colt.lp\\_living/living-vs-nonliving/](https://ca.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/tdc02.sci.life.colt.lp_living/living-vs-nonliving/)