

# Animal Tracks

Animal tracks are prints in mud, snow, sand and concrete. Looking at them with your child is a great way to explore nature together. Examining, discussing and identifying the tracks encourages scientific thinking, spatial awareness and symbolic thought. Here are some questions you might use during your exploration:

- What animal do you think left these tracks?
- Have you ever seen any of these tracks before?
- Which direction do you think the animal was going?
- What shapes do you see?
- What kind of foot made this track? Is it bumpy? Scaly? Smooth? Flat? Arched?
- When the animal walks, what parts of its feet touch the ground?
- Can you tell if the animal has nails? Hooves? Claws? How many toes does it have?
- How do these tracks look the same as others you've seen? How are they different?
- What kind of tracks or prints do you leave in the snow? How are they different from an animal's tracks?

# Animal tracks you might see in Chicago



Dog



Cat



Rabbit



White-tailed deer



Raccoon



Squirrel



Bird

