

Exploring Autumn

Nursery (Autumn)



Malleable/Fine Motor

Blackberries

Add crushed blackberries to cornflour gloop for the children to explore.

Hedgehogs

Provide brown play dough, small twigs and seeds. Display photographs of hedgehogs as inspiration.

Scoop it

Place pumpkins, scoops and spoons in a Tuff Tub for messy scooping fun.

Autumn dough

Provide autumnal-scented play dough in a variety of autumn shades. Scents could include cinnamon, apple, apple pie and berry. Add a selection of tools and cutters. Explore squeezing and rolling the dough with the children and challenge them to roll balls and sausage shapes. Add leaves for the children to press into the dough.

Wild ones

Display images of woodland animals. Provide play dough, twigs, feathers and googly eyes for the children to make their own wild creatures if they choose.



Creative

Exploring leaves

Provide autumn-coloured paint and leaves for printing fun. Add cotton buds for small leaf stamping. Talk about the colours and leaves.

Conker rolling

Add primary-coloured paint and conkers in a tray for conker rolling.

Autumn songs

Set up a listening station with autumn-themed songs and rhymes.



Investigation

Exploring autumn

Create an autumn Tuff Tub or tabletop display using natural resources such as leaves, conkers, moss, twigs and acorns for the children to explore. Provide hand lenses for close observation.

Autumn fruits

Provide a selection of autumnal fruits and vegetables for the children to explore and discuss. Offer hand lenses or a microscope for the children to observe the fruits and vegetables.

As an optional teacher-led or small group task, discuss the names of the fruits and vegetables and talk about children's likes and dislikes.

Seed shakers

Display a range of shakers and rain makers for the children to explore and discuss the sounds they make. Add cardboard tubes, cups, seeds, conkers and acorns for children to make their own shakers.



Sand and water

Who lives in the woods?

Put fern fronds, twigs, hollowed-out logs and toadstools (made from painted corks) into a sand tray. Add woodland animals for imaginative play. Play alongside the children to support communication and develop vocabulary. Challenge the children to make homes and dens for the animals.



Reading/Writing

Woodland reading den

Make a woodland-themed reading den for the children to share stories.

As an optional teacher-led or small group task, share a selection of autumn stories, including *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert, *Stick Man* or *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson.



Outdoor

Autumn mud kitchen

Set up a mud kitchen with natural materials for messy play, such as pebbles, leaves and sticks. Squelch and pound blackberries and other fragrant ingredients into the mud to add colour and scent.

Sweep it up

Give children rakes, brushes and buckets for sweeping and collecting leaves.

Autumn dens

Offer large apparatus, cardboard boxes and log stumps for the children to make dens or obstacle courses.



Construction and small world

Build it up

Provide a selection of wooden log slices and branches to add interest inside or outside.



Role play/Communication

Cosy camp fire

Set up a cosy space with a small imaginary camp fire and resource it with logs, torches and sleeping bags.



Mathematics

Sorting sticks

Provide sticks of various lengths. Paint the ends in different colours for sorting and matching.

