

Wildcat Hills Nature Center

NEBRASKA Lil' Explorers: Squirrels

- GAME  PARKS -

Squirrels!

This lesson plan was created to help you fill the day with fun, exciting outdoor learning opportunities. This topic will utilize items commonly found in or around our homes.

Outdoor Nature Play:

Go outside in search of birds. You have to be very quiet, so you don't scare all of the birds away. Do you see any birds? What color are they? Are they doing anything exciting? Can you listen for birds? What sounds are they making?

Write down your observations or draw a picture when you get back inside.

Books:

Scholastics (limited free online books and videos)

<https://bookflix.digital.scholastic.com/pair/detail/bk0097pr/start?authCtx=U.794217314>

Scaredy Squirrel by Melanie Watt

Backyard Wildlife: Squirrels by Blastoff Readers

Indoor Play:

Squirrel Counting:

Cut out squirrels and acorns and match up the numbers.

<https://misformonster.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/SquirrelCounting.pdf>

S is for Squirrel:

Print out, cut and color the squirrel template. Glue pieces together and talk about the letter S.

<https://www.creativelittleexplorers.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/S-is-for-Squirrel.pdf>

Crafts:

Squirrel Feeder:

Empty milk or water jug (thoroughly rinsed out)

Peanuts (in shells and roasted)

Scissors

Crayons

Tape – we used Washi tape

Paint stick *Optional

Yarn (or you can use the handle of the milk jug to hang it on a branch)

Activity Prep:

1. Cut out a hole in both sides of the jug.
2. Poke or drill holes and string yarn through it. Then tie it off to make a hanger for the jug. You can skip this step if you just hang the jug by the handle. We didn't really have a good branch for that, so we used the yarn.
3. We also added a place for the squirrels to stand or climb into the jug. Cut slits in the jug and sliding a paint stick through.

Sensory:

Squirrel and Acorn n Matching:

Print and cut the squirrel and acorns. Place in sensory bin filled with leaves, twig or other nature materials. Have kiddos pull out one at a time to match!

<http://www.seaofknowledge.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Squirrel-and-Acorn-Color-Match-Magnetic-Sensory-Tub.pdf>

Squirrel Counting Play Mats:

Using playdough, clay or even natural materials like acorns, count the right number to nuts to give to the squirrel!

Snack:

Acorn Cookies:

Ingredients:

Hershey Kisses

bite size Nutter Butter cookies

mini chocolate chips

Directions:

Melt 1/2 bag chocolate chips in microwave for 20 seconds at a time and stirring until melted through. Dip Hershey Kisses in melted chocolate and press on Nutter Butter cookie. Dip an un-melted chocolate chip and press on the other end of the Nutter Butter cookie. Let cool/harden.