

## Getting Ready for Squirrels and Critters Week

### Suggested Books:

Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper  
 Miss Suzy by Miriam Young  
 Nuts to You! By Lois Ehlert  
 The Busy Little Squirrel by Nancy Tafuri  
 Those Darn Squirrels! By Adam Rubin  
 Leaf Trouble by Jonathan Emmet  
 If you Give a Mouse a Cookie, by Laura Numeroff

### Songs and Fingerplays:

#### A Squirrel Song

Sung to: "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain"  
 I'll be gathering all the acorns till they're gone.  
 I'll be gathering all the acorns till they're gone.  
 I'll be gathering all the acorns, gathering all the acorns,  
 Gathering all the acorns till they're gone.

And I'll put them all inside my little home.  
 I will put them all inside my little home.  
 I will put them all inside, put them all inside,  
 Put them all inside my little home.

And I'll eat the nuts until the winter's gone.  
 I will eat the nuts until the winter's gone.  
 I will eat the nuts until, eat the nuts until,  
 Eat the nuts until the winter's gone.

Then I'll do it all again come next fall.  
 I will do it all again come next fall.  
 I will do it all again, do it all again,  
 Do it all again come next fall!

#### Five Little Squirrels

Five little squirrels with acorns to store.  
 One went to sleep and then there were four!  
 Four little squirrels hunting acorns in a tree.  
 One fell down, and now there are three!  
 Three little squirrels wondering what to do.  
 One got lost, and now there are two!  
 Two little squirrels tossing acorns for fun.  
 One got tired, and now there is one!  
 One little squirrel playing in the sun.  
 He ran away, now there are none.

#### Frisky Squirrel

Sung to: "The Grand Old Duke of York"  
 Oh, the frisky little squirrel  
 He gathers nuts and seeds.  
 He hides them for the winter months  
 So he'll have all he needs.

### Refrain:

Oh, up-up-up he goes  
 And down-down-down he comes.  
 He runs around - goes up and down.  
 His work is never done. (repeat refrain)

### Squirrels

Five little squirrels sitting in a tree.  
 The 1st one said, "What do I see?"  
 The 2nd one said, "Some nuts on the ground."  
 The 3rd one said, "Those are nuts that I found."  
 The 4th one said, "I'll beat you there."  
 The 5th one said, "all right, that's fair."  
 So they shook their tails and ran with glee!  
 To the nuts that lay at the foot of the tree!

**Dramatic Play:** Put some hard-shelled mixed nuts in the toy kitchen. Put stuffed squirrel toy out for a "pet". Set out old Halloween costumes of animals.

**Blocks:** Provide small sticks and leaves for making animal homes. Set out blue construction paper for lakes, small plastic plants.

**Listening Center:** read several Squirrel books onto a cassette tape, and let child listen to them throughout the week. Make sure you tell the child what page to be on, ring a bell or something to turn the page, or tell the child to turn the page. Besides just reading the words, describe a few things on the page so the child is sure to follow along.

**Science Center:** Now would be a great time to get a pet hamster or gerbil! Set it up on a low table so child can watch the critter.

### Materials:

- Buy or make a woodland animals lotto game
- Hula hoops for outdoor game
- Foods forest animals eat, like acorns, nuts, seeds, berries, fruit, etc.

- Cut squirrel shape from sturdy paper. Brown tissue paper, glue, water, paint brush, fur scraps
- Small plastic animals for sandbox
- Pine cones, either peanut butter OR rendered suet, bird seed, string
- Paint- red, yellow, orange, green. Large sheet of paper, paintbrushes
- Squirrel shape, watery glue, coffee grounds, black pompom, wiggley eyes
- Acorn Math- egg carton, marker, small countable items such as acorns, or raisins, or dry beans.
- Print off Acorn writing practice sheet, from [www.first\\_school.ws](http://www.first_school.ws) .
- Falling leaves – sheet or parachute, fall leaves
- Mouse puppet- gray paper, paper scraps, glue, lunch sacks, scissors
- Cookie Math. Red beans, white beans, paper plates, crayons.
- Ingredients to make your favorite cookie recipe.
- Real acorns, or pictures of acorns, to hide in the backyard/playground for child to find
- Bag of mixed nuts, nut cracker, bowls for sorting nuts.
- Green or brown paper scraps to make head, legs, tail for walnut shell turtle. Cut head, legs, tail all in one piece, glue shell half on top for turtle shell.

**Squirrels Week: Monday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity: Vocabulary words: Forest, woods, stream, burrow, nest, hole, fur, hide, hoofs, odor, wild, claws, footprint, hibernate, den, cave, log. Teach "A Squirrel Song".
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Play lotto. Make a lotto game with stickers of woodland critters, or buy listening lotto game.
8:15	Free Play: set out materials for dramatic play, blocks, music, science and books areas.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time. Play "Hop in the Hoops". Set out assorted colored hula hoops. Instruct child/children to hop like a bunny into the red hoops, to fly like a bird into a green hoop, etc.
11:15	Project: Cut out <a href="#">a squirrel shape</a> from sturdy paper or board. Child tears bits of brown tissue paper and attaches to squirrel shape using watery glue and a paint brush. Glue fur scraps on the tail.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Ride trikes
4:30	Come inside.
4:45	Project: Discuss the small animal you plan to buy – hamster, gerbil, or mouse. Set up living quarters. Discuss food, water, shelter needs of animal, and habits. Let child watch animal, help feed it, and care for it. Set cage on a low shelf so child can watch.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

**Squirrels: Tuesday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Vocabulary. Teach “Five Little Squirrels”. Use small squirrels on flannelboard.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Display foods forest animals eat: acorns, nuts, seeds, eggs, berries, and fruit. Touch them, taste some, compare them.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack:
10:15	Outside time: Bring out small plastic animals to sand box. Build dens and caves for them.
11:15	Project: Make bird feeders. Smear peanut butter on pine cones, roll in bird seed. Attach a string to hang it from a tree branch. Can dip cones in rendered suet instead, if peanut allergies exist.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack:
3:30	Outside time: ride tricycle.
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Paint with fall colors – yellow, red, orange, and green. Use big brushes, large paper.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

**Squirrels: Wednesday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Vocabulary. Teach “Frisky Squirrel”.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Squirrel Puzzle from Imagiplay, or similar activity. Do <a href="#">Squirrel dot-to-dot</a> (teaches number sequencing)
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time. Swing from the monkey bars. Climb into tunnel to “hibernate”.
11:15	Project: Coffee Grounds Squirrel. Cut squirrel shape from sturdy paper. Cover with watery glue, shake on dry coffee grounds. Add small pompom nose and wiggly eyes.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Provide child-sized rake for raking leaves. Rake them, and jump in them.
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, and prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Acorn Math. Number the bottom of an egg carton from 1 to 12. Child counts acorns (or Cheerios, or other small item) and places correct amount in each cup.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

**Squirrels: Thursday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Teach how to make an “A” with straight lines. Help child trace the A in the Acorn worksheet at the end of this lesson. Let him color the picture.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time: Falling Leaves. Gather leaves, pile on a sheet. Child and you grab edges of the sheet and shake to watch the leaves dance in the air.
11:15	Project: Mouse Puppet. Cut a head and ears from gray paper. Add scraps for eyes, nose, whiskers, inner ears. Paste to bottom of lunch-size paper bag. Color overalls on bottom of bag. Color and cut a cookie for the mouse from paper. Retell the story, If you give a Mouse a Cookie.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time:
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Let child take a spoonful of dried beans- red and white that you have mixed together. Dump spoonful on the table. Count just the red ones. Draw that many cookies on one half of the paper plate. Count just the white ones, draw that many cookies on the other half. Now count all the beans, and write that number on the plate.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

**Squirrels: Friday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Playdough or lacing cards
8:15	Free Play.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time.
11:15	Project: Read "If you Give a Mouse a Cookie". Make cookies.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack: Eat cookies, serve with a glass of milk.
3:30	Outside time: Use real acorns, or cut out pictures of acorns. Hide them around the playground. Tell child the squirrel hid lots of acorns but doesn't remember where he put them. Can he help Squirrel find his acorns? Let child hide them all again, and you search for them. If child is mature enough, teach him "warmer, colder" to give you clues where to look.
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, and prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Oh Nuts! Get a bag of mixed nuts. Let child sort them by size, shape, and color. Then crack a few open and let him taste them. Use the walnut shell halves to make a turtle.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

[http://www.first-school.ws/t/alpha\\_tracers\\_zb1/a1.htm](http://www.first-school.ws/t/alpha_tracers_zb1/a1.htm)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

