

Squirrels and Woodland Animals 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
Woodland Creatures by Aunt L
Baby Animals of the Woodland Forest by Carmen Bredeson
Fawn at Woodland Way by Kathleen Weidner Soehfeld
A Woodland Counting Book by Claudie McGehee
Hamster (ASPCA Pet Care Guide) by Mark Evans
Pet Hamsters by Jerome Wexler

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!

In The Forest

(To the tune of "Did you ever see a Lassie?")
If you're ever in the forest,
The forest, the forest,
If you're ever in the forest,
You might see some deer.

With antlers on one;
Another might run.
If you're ever in the forest.
You might see some deer.

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!

Raccoon

Sung to: "Twinkle, Twinkle"
Raccoon, raccoon, climbing a tree,
Wearing a mask, you can't fool me.
Hiding there so I can't see
What you're doing in that tree.
Raccoon, raccoon, climbing a tree,
Wearing a mask, you can't fool me.

Calendar Area:

This week's concepts are Qu, 7, square, and tan.
Find something that is tan to put in the calendar area. Cut out a large letter Q and a small u, tape to the wall next to the calendar. Likewise, cut out a large number 7, and a square shape and display. Each day during calendar time, you will review these concepts with your child. If you wish, you could also print off the title of this week's theme "squirrels and woodland animals" and put that on

the wall, with pictures of squirrels, deer, rabbits, raccoons, etc.

Tan is a light brown color. You can make tan by mixing white and brown paint together. Light-skinned people turn “tan” in the summer sun. Deer and other woodland animals are often tan colored. Sand can be tan colored.

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 woodland animals.

Blocks: Provide small sticks and leaves for making animal homes. Set out blue construction paper for lakes, and 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, mouse 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
- Squirrel collage: Cut out a squirrel shape from sturdy paper or cardboard, using the squirrel pattern provided online. Provide small bits of brown, beige and white tissue paper, white glue slightly watered down, and a paintbrush. Child glues tissue papers to the squirrel, overlapping the colors as he chooses. You may provide a scrap of brown fake fur to glue on the tail.
- Foods forest animals eat, like acorns, nuts, seeds, berries, fruit, etc.
- Small plastic animals for sandbox
- Pet Hamster- discuss with your child before you go to the pet store. Then let him help you chose the habitat for your new pet. Regular hamsters are difficult to find, as the

dwarf ones are more popular, but would be a better choice for preschool. If you do not wish to get a rodent for a pet, then you may substitute a nature walk instead. Bring along some sunflower seeds, and try to feed any squirrels you see. Don’t get too close! Squirrels are wild and may bite.

- Squirrel Feeders: Make a simple squirrel feeder. Plan 1: Find a small scrap of wood – any size or shape is okay. Your child can help you sand it, if desired. Set it over an empty can, so you can pound nails through it. Select four large, long nails, and help child to pound them into the board. It may be easier to pre-drill the holes, using a drill bit that is smaller than the nails. Pound the nails all the way through. Your child’s part is done. Now you can pound the wood into the fence post, tree stump, or wherever you plan to put it, leaving the four long nails pointing up. Then you jab corn cobs onto the exposed nails. Replace the corn cobs as needed, to keep the squirrels coming back for more! As an added benefit, once you start feeding the squirrels, they are more likely to leave your bird feeders alone.
- Squirrel Feeder, plan two: Tie a corn cob securely to a hook end of a bungie cord. Hang the bungie cord from a tree branch with a piece of rope, so that the corn is about a foot above the ground. Squirrels will jump and swing as they try to eat the corn.
- Squirrel feeder, plan three: just scatter corncobs and sunflower seed on the deck, patio, or sidewalk. The squirrels will find it.
- Exploring Tan: set out brown and white paint, large sheet of paper, and large paint brushes. Child can mix the colors together. Teach him that tan is a shade of light brown, made by adding white to brown.
- Squirrel shape, watery glue, coffee grounds- (dried, used), black pompom, wiggley eyes. Could use any woodland animal shape instead of a squirrel.
- Acorn Math- egg carton, marker, small countable items such as acorns, or raisins, or dry beans.
- 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. 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. Repeat a few times, but stop before your child acts bored.
- Ingredients to make your favorite cookie recipe.
- Real acorns, or pictures of acorns, to hide in the backyard/playground for child to find
- 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.
- 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 Theme: Monday

Date: _____

concepts: Qu, 7, square, tan

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 to hop like a bunny into the red hoop, to fly like a bird into a green hoop, etc.
11:15	Project: Squirrel collage
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	Inside. Assist child with the Qu printing worksheet. Use a thick pencil, or put a pencil gripper on a regular pencil, to make it easier for your child.
4:45	Project: Pet Hamster, or Nature Walk
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: _____

concepts: Qu, 7, square, tan

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Vocabulary. Teach "In the Forrest". Show pictures of deer. Review concepts.
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 a squirrel feeder. Set it near a window, so you can watch the curious critters.
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	Inside time: Counting Worksheet
4:45	Project: Exploring Tan. Paint with brown and white.
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: _____

concepts: Qu, 7, square, tan

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 Squirrel dot-to-dot worksheet (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	Inside time. Squares worksheet.
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: _____

concepts: Qu, 7, square, tan

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Playdough
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: Swing and climb.
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, prepare for project.
4:45	Project: "Cookie Math". Use red & white beans, paper plates.
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: _____

concepts: Qu, 7, square, tan

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Review songs, concepts, vocabulary, date, month. Teach “Raccoon” song. Show child a picture of raccoons, pointing out the mask.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: 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. Walk through the woods, if there are any near your home.
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 backyard. Tell child that 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! Counting activity
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.