



Literacy

- Write letters onto conkers (using a metallic pen) and children can make CVC words, You could use the little logs for them to place each conker on.
- Write the initial sounds for words linked to Autumn.
- List the signs of Autumn.
- Label the nest they designed or build for an animal to hibernate in.
- Setup an Autumn tuff tray with logs/leaves/twigs/Autumn animals for the children to create their own stories.
- Write what they can see in Autumn scenes displayed in the provision.

Maths

- Draw spots on conkers (using a metallic pen) and children to use tweezers or a spoon to place the spotted conker into the correct numbered dish.
- Use hedgehog templates and each hedgehog have a number on it. Children to attach the correct number of pegs to each hedgehog.
- Count the autumn items found on the walk.
- Use the Autumn items found on the walk to do practical addition/subtraction, find more or less.
- Use a picture of a tree and cut out red, orange and yellow leaves. This can be used to count out the correct number of leaves onto the tree or for subtraction where so many leaves fall of the tree. If you use two trees you could use these for addition. Leaves placed on both trees, 'How many leaves are on both trees?'

Understanding the World

- Walk to the local park or forest area – look for signs of Autumn.
- Take cameras for children to take photos of what they see. These can be printed later for discussion points and to encourage talking.
- Take magnifying glasses for the children to observe things they find.
- Take rucksacks or bags for the children to collect leaves, conkers, sticks etc. (These can be used for activities in the provision later).
- Use senses to describe what they can see, feel, hear and smell whilst on their walk.
- Set up an exploration tray of items collected on the walk to promote talk and for children to use their senses to describe what the items look and feel like etc.
- Discuss hibernation and use texts to understand why animals hibernate.
- Discuss what we could do to help animals who hibernate (Don't tidy up your garden, don't disturb areas in the outdoor areas, check bonfires before lighting).
- Fly kites in the wind.
- Sort Autumn clothes from clothes worn in different seasons.



Communication & Language

- Use the items collected on the walk for discussion as a whole class or in small groups.
- Talk about the walk using their senses. Use the photographs taken to aid discussion.
- Display different Autumn scenes to promote questions and comments.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

- Discuss how we can care for animals (linked to hibernation).
- Work as part of a group to share resources (items found on walk).
- Taste different foods you may start to eat/drink in Autumn – warmer food/drinks (hot chocolate, jacket potato, pumpkin soup). Discuss what children liked and disliked.

Physical Development

- Children to hole punch leaves and thread string through.
- Attach pegs to a hedgehog template for the spikes (maths link).
- Cutting skills – Cut around leaves.
- Develop gross motor skills by doing a ribbon dance in the wind (EAD link).

Expressive Arts and Design

- Press leaves into paint and print using correct Autumn colours.
- Use paper and wax crayons to do tree and leaf rubbings.
- Roll pine cones in paint for printing. Can be used to create a spiky hedgehog effect.
- Use a template of a hedgehog and stick leaves/sticks on its body.
- Roll up soil/mud into a ball and push in sticks to make a hedgehog.
- Transient art – use items collected from the park/walk to create pictures of an Autumn scene (hedgehogs, trees, etc.).
- Set up a tuff tray with logs, sticks, grass, leaves and put in different Autumn topic animals for the children to use their imagination to create a story.
- Sing the song 'The Autumn leaves are falling down' (in the tune of the wheels on the bus).
- Make a nest for an animal to hibernate in. This can be done using things like junk modelling, play dough, construction, or items collected on the walk. Get the children to design it or draw it after they have made it and label their design. (Literacy link)
- Use long ribbons tied together to create a ribbon dance in the wind.
- Make a kite to fly in the wind.
- Use musical instruments to create the weather – wind, rain, etc.
- Make a rain shaker.



Resources to support this topic.

Books

- [‘What can you see in Autumn?’ by Sian Smith](#)
- [‘We’re going on a leaf hunt’ by Steve Metzger](#)
- [‘Leaf man’ by Lois Ehlert](#)
- [‘Let it fall’ by Marya Cocca-Leffler](#)
- [‘Remember remember the fifth of November’ by Deborah Webb](#)
- [‘It was a cold dark night’ by Tim Hopgood](#)
- [‘Wide awake Hedgehog’ by Rosie Wellesley](#)
- [‘Shark in the park on a windy day’ by Nick Sharratt](#)
- [‘Rosie’s Hat’ by Julia Donaldson](#)
- [‘The Windy Day’ by Anna Milbourne](#)

