

Outdoor Explorers at Home

Falling Leaves

This week, in our Woodland Explorers session, we have been learning about why leaves change colour and fall to the ground in the autumn.

To help continue your child's learning, and to do some outdoor exploring at home, try these ideas themed around autumn leaves.

Tree Time - Go for a walk to a park or visit an arboretum to see the spectacular display that nature offers in the autumn. Talk to your child about why some trees lose their leaves in autumn. Can they identify a deciduous tree and an evergreen tree? Encourage your children to guess from which trees the fallen leaves have come.

Autumn Leaf Pressing - collect some clean, dry leaves in a variety of autumn colours. Remember to collect only fallen leaves. Place the leaves between some pieces of kitchen towel and press under a heavy book for 24 hours. Once your leaves are nice and flat they can be used to make an autumn collage. To make the leaves last longer and preserve the rich colours, you can paint the leaves with decoupage glue which is clear when dry. Paint one side at a time and leave to dry.

This Weeks Outdoor Explorer Tips

- Many animals and insects will be preparing for the winter and looking for a place to shelter or hibernate. A pile of leaves left in the corner of your garden or under a bush will make an ideal home for hibernating hedgehogs and a variety of other creatures.
- Before lighting any bonfires, always check under any piles of leaves or logs for animals that might be sheltering there.
- Autumn leaves are beautiful, but children should only collect the leaves and other natural items that have fallen to the ground. Avoid collecting leaves that have remained on the trees - all sorts of wildlife can benefit from them.