



Discover the little treasures of autumn

Autumn is full of natural treasures waiting to be discovered. Take a walk together and see what you can find, then bring your collection home or into the nursery to create your very own nature treasure basket.

Materials

- A basket, box or shallow container
- Fallen leaves
- Conkers
- Pinecones
- Small twigs
- Other safe natural treasures you find
- Optional: magnifying glass, paper and crayons

Please only collect natural materials that have already fallen to the ground. Avoid anything sharp, poisonous or that could be a choking hazard. Always supervise young children when exploring and handling small natural objects.

How to play

1. Head outside and look carefully for autumn treasures. Encourage your child to notice things they might normally walk past. Can you find a crunchy leaf? A smooth conker? A large pinecone? A tiny twig?
2. Place your finds carefully into your basket. Encourage your child to make their own choices about what they would like to collect. Talk about each object as you find it. What does it look like? How does it feel? Is it heavy or light?
3. Once you've finished your walk, empty your basket and explore everything you've found.

Encourage your child to sort the treasures by colour, size, shape or texture. Can they put all the leaves together? Which object is the biggest? Which feels the roughest?

4. Arrange your collection in a basket and give your child time to explore it independently. You could add a magnifying glass and encourage them to look closely at the details of each object. For older children, try drawing their favourite treasure or creating a simple picture using some of the natural materials.

How Does This Benefit Children?

Observation and Curiosity - Exploring natural objects encourages children to look closely, ask questions and develop curiosity about the world around them.

Sensory Development - Feeling different textures, shapes and weights provides children with opportunities for sensory exploration and helps them understand the world through touch.

Early Maths Skills - Sorting and comparing natural objects helps develop early mathematical concepts such as size, shape, quantity and classification.

Language and Communication - Talking about what children find introduces descriptive vocabulary such as rough, smooth, crunchy, soft, heavy, light, large and small.

Fine Motor Development - Picking up, carrying, sorting and arranging natural objects helps children develop hand strength, coordination and dexterity.

Understanding the Natural World - Collecting seasonal treasures helps children notice changes in nature and begin to understand the different characteristics of autumn.

Discover the Seasons of Wonder

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