

## **Squirrels, Nuts, Foraging**

2016 Ms. Cretera's Garden Parents

Outdoor Lesson #6 - 11.10.2016

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**Objective:** Inspired by the Squirrel song the kids and Ms. Cretara brought in last week, the kids will learn more about what squirrels do and eat. They will learn the word **OMNIVORE, HERBIVORE, CARNIVORE**, and look for the types of foods squirrels forage and eat in the garden, and be encouraged to observe them and sort count them.

**Time/location:** The entire lesson can be done in 30-40 minutes.

**Materials:** Collected acorns, seed pods, pine-cones, berries.

**Book:** Nuts To You, by Lois Ehlert

### **The Lesson:**

*On the walk over, stop at the Nasturtium Bed, and have the kids who want to try some leaves or flowers go ahead.*

### **Part 1 / Let's Sing The Song About Squirrels Together Again!**

(can show the kids how to make a squirrel symbol in sign language)

#### **Furry Squirrel**

I'm a fur, fur, furry, squirrel,  
With a bush, bush, bushy tail,  
And I scamper here and there,  
Scamper everywhere,  
Searching for some NUTS!  
I've got nuts on my nose, nuts on my toes,  
Nuts on my head, nuts in my bed,  
Nuts in my paws, nuts in my jaws,  
Pop, crack!  
Yum, yum!  
Jackie Silberg

### **Part 2 / Nuts To You -Book Reading**

-Read Nuts To You by Lois Ehlert.

### **Part 3 / Discussion, Garden Observation & Drawing**

-Use the 'Squirrels' book to Guide a discussion on what squirrels eat, discuss the words, omnivore, herbivore, carnivore.

-Ask the kids to go out with their journals and find some of the things squirrels forage for and draw them.

*-**Deep Breath Pause:** Breathe in the air just the way the roots absorb in the water, feel it go to all parts of your body, (feel the water going up your trunk, into your branches, out to the leaves, make food, and evaporate) and breath out.*

### **Part 4 / Movement Games & Sorting Games**

#### **Nuts in a Carton (Math)**

Number an egg carton from 1-12 writing the number with a black marker in the bottom of each cup. Provide nuts (in shells) for children to place inside the cups counting from 1-12. As children advance in their development, they can place one nut in the number one section, two nuts in the number two section and so on.

As a variation, invite children to sort the nuts according to type

#### **Squirrels in Trees (Game)**

Place children in groups of three spaced around the room. You will need one to three children not placed in a group as the extra squirrels. In each group, two children arch hands (to make a tree) and the third child is the squirrel. To play the game, an adult says, "Change **Trees**," and all squirrels including the extras run to new trees. Only one squirrel is allowed in each tree. Squirrels not finding a tree wait for the next call to find a tree. During play time, change positions of squirrels and trees so that all children have a turn to be squirrels. For variations, squirrels can hop, walk, or slide to the trees.