

## Home Learning Challenge - Awesome Autumn

Autumn is upon us and the children have enjoyed bringing in lots of natural objects that they have found on their travels, as well as bringing things that they find in the garden to their teachers for us to look at! With this in mind, we have come up with some autumnal activities that you might like to try at home with your children! We are so lucky to live in one of the leafier areas of London, so why not take the opportunity to go on a weekend Autumn walk with your little ones, see which natural objects you can collect and then make some beautiful artwork that the children will be proud of!

One of the most popular things being brought to us is conkers-the children absolutely love them. There are so many conkers out and about at the moment, you can easily collect some on your way to and from Nursery, or you might want to go out for a weekend walk in one of the parks and see how many you can collect. Conkers can be used for a really fun (and easy to clean up) painting activity. Put some paper down on a tray with quite high edges and then pop a few spots of paint on the paper. Next, drop a conker or two in, and encourage the children to move the tray around to make different patterns and to mix the colours up if more than one colour was used. Children from both the Upper and Lower Nursery can access this activity-it's great for gross motor development from the shoulder for the younger ones, while the addition of different colours makes it a fun way for older children to explore colour mixing. They might want to also think about how tipping the tray in different directions creates different patterns! This activity is also highly open-ended and children can take the activity as far as they want to!



The children are also interested in the falling leaves and changing seasons and love to collect leaves too. This provides lots of rich language teaching opportunities as it gives you the chance to model colour and texture orientated language to the children-you could even challenge them to describe the leaves independently before either giving them the basic language they may not have acquired, or extending their existing language by offering them extra synonyms! Leaves are such a diverse resource and you can do so many things with them-here are a few of our favourites.

### Leaf threading

Punch holes through the leaves that you have collected and then encourage the children to thread string through them. They might want to use the opportunity to create their own leaf jewellery! This can also be done with conkers, if you have the time or equipment to drill a hole through them! You can keep it au naturel, or make it sparkly by adding different beads. This is a



great fine motor activity for younger and older children, but you may wish to extend it even further for older children by encouraging them to count the leaves as they thread them on

### **Leaf Collages**

You may wish to challenge your child to create leaf collages out of the leaves that they have collected. As with the threading activity, this is a great fine motor activity for younger children, as well as developing their gross motor movements from the shoulder. They might even want to have a go at adding more detail to their collage-this leaf hedgehog is a cute craft.



### **Leaf Painting with a twist!**

A final lovely leaf- based activity that we like to do with the children is creating leaf silhouettes-all you need to do is fill an old spray bottle with water and food colouring, pop a leaf down on a sheet of paper, and let the children spray all over the leaf! Next, take the leaf away, and you will be left with a perfect leaf silhouette. Using the trigger of the spray bottle is a great way of developing fine motor movements in the hand and strengthening those little muscles, and it is a great platform to talk about different shapes. If the spray bottle is proving a little tricky, adapt the activity and encourage children to use sponges to dab paint around the leaf. It has the same effect and also contributes to fine motor development!



# Autumn Hunt Checklist



conker



yellow leaf



chestnut



fungi



squirrel



bare tree



brown leaf



berry



orange leaf



pine cone



Have a great half term-happy collecting! We've attached a checklist, just in case you wanted to turn it into a real scavenger hunt (and get some valuable mark making practice too)!