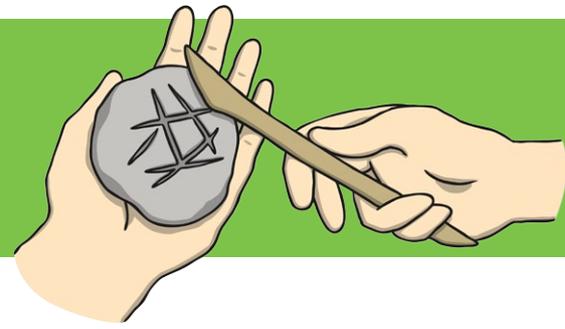


Take It Outside: Autumn

STEM: Nature Stamping



Introduction

The Twinkl original story 'Little Acorns', starts with a little, brown acorn falling to the ground. During autumn, you can find so many seeds and seed cases as well as leaves and twigs. This activity encourages you to explore the changing season and the treasures it has to offer.

You will need:

- A collection of autumn nuts, seeds and seed cases that have fallen from the trees.
- Clay, play dough or salt dough. (You can find a great [salt dough recipe here](#))
- The Twinkl original story, '[Little Acorns](#)'.

Key Questions:

- Why are there so many seeds and fruits in autumn?
- Which tree or plant were the seeds/seed cases from? Do you know its name?
- Why are the seeds sometimes in a hard case or shell?

What to do:

1. Explore your outside areas. Look for signs of the changing seasons - what do you notice?
2. Look up into the branches of the trees. What can you see? In the story, the acorns hang from branches like miniature bunches of grapes. Can you find any seeds, nuts or fruit on the branches?
3. Investigate your treasures. Look at them and sort them, feel them, smell them - do they make a noise?
4. Investigate further - use clay, playdough or salt dough and press the autumn treasure into it. Can you roll it? Press it? Stamp it? Keep the investigation open-ended and expect the children to explore independently. Some children might create a repeating pattern, others might create a random pattern. Some children might create a sculpture or enjoy making prints with the material.



Ways to Support

Some of the treasures might require some fine motor skills to print or stamp with. Encourage the children to consider finding a suitable seed to print with. Look for seeds still attached to a twig or larger items that are easier to hold.

Ways to Extend

Look at the variety of materials you collected. Can you explain the adaptations of different plants and trees that allow their seeds to grow successfully? Try this **Sycamore Seed Helicopter Activity**.