



Science
Age 9-11

Animal seed dispersal

- Biodiversity



Overview

This fun game is a great introduction to seed dispersal and understanding how plants have evolved to rely on animals for reproduction. This activity will also allow pupils to explore their school grounds and practise returning to a group when required.

Resources

- Raisins (**please note that raisins are poisonous to dogs**, so choose an alternative resource if your grounds are accessible by dog walker)
- An open space with set boundaries

Activity

1. Explain that you're going to imagine you are squirrels preparing for the winter.
2. Give each pupil five raisins which represent acorns.
3. Tell the children that they have five minutes to go and hide their acorns (as squirrels will do to save them for winter). They can choose if they want to put them all in one place or in different locations.
4. Re-group the children and discuss why animals need to do this and what might happen to the acorns over the time they are hidden.
5. Challenge the children to retrieve their acorns for winter (some ruthless squirrels may find others' acorns instead!).
6. Review who has survived the winter and discuss what would happen to acorns not retrieved i.e. the squirrels have ensured the seeding of new oak trees.

Suggested outcomes for learning and play

We understand you will tailor this activity to the learning needs of your pupils. Here are some of the learning outcomes and extension ideas that other practitioners have used this lesson idea to reach.

- To understand different methods of seed dispersal
- To explore animal hibernation behaviours
- To understand the interdependence between plants and animals

Here are some ideas that other educators have used in conjunction with this activity to bridge the gap between the indoors and the outdoors for their pupils.

Subject area	Topic	Ideas for further exploration
Science	Seed dispersal	Discuss other methods of dispersal e.g. animal digestion, sticking to animal fur, wind dispersal
	Food chains	Explore predators/ challenges squirrels may face
Maths	Number	Emphasise counting raisins, how many left etc.
	Statistics	Collect data and create charts, average number found, percentage left behind etc
Literacy and language	Letter writing	Write from the squirrel or trees perception about how they've helped/ to give thanks for dispersal
	Non-fiction writing	Fact file about different types of seed dispersal



If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: l.tl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training