

Outdoor Learning Opportunities:

Chipmunks & Squirrels

Standards: S.LS.PS.4 SED.SD.BRC.PS.1 CA.M.PS.2 CA.DP.PS.1



Materials:

- A wooded area where squirrels and chipmunks might be found.
- Vocabulary: • Squirrel
 - Chipmunk
 - Acorn
 - Dray

• Book – *Nuts to You* by Lois Ehlert

Sing the Squirrel/Chipmunk song with the children and show pictures of the different types of animals (gray squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk):

Gray squirrel, gray squirrel, swish your bushy tail Gray squirrel, gray squirrel, swish your bushy tail Wrinkle up your little nose, hold an acorn in your toes Gray squirrel, gray squirrel, swish your bushy tail

Sing again, but say "red squirrel" and "hold a pinecone in your toes". Sing a third time and say "chipmunk, chipmunk, swish your skinny tail" and "hold a seed in your toes". Children can sing the song with different friends for each verse.

Go on a hike to look for signs of squirrels and chipmunks. These might include squirrel or chipmunk "tables" where there are pieces of acorns or pinecones partially eaten, holes in the ground (chipmunks), squirrel nests in the trees (drays), and tracks in the mud.

After observing squirrels and chipmunks, the children can pretend to be squirrels by running and stopping, looking for food and chasing each other. They can be with their friends and as they change which animal they pretend to be, they can make new friends to play with.

Extension: Read the book – Nuts to You by Lois Ehlert

Guiding Questions:

- What are the characteristics of squirrels and chipmunks? Are they mammals?
- What do gray squirrels eat? What do red squirrels eat? What do chipmunks eat?
- Where do chipmunks and squirrels live?