

Tree-mendous!



The activities in this Programme link to the Squirrel Smile Awards. Why not carry out all the games and activities in this programme outdoors in a local park or woodland area! Don't forget to adhere to the adult: child ratio and safety guidelines for outdoor activities.

An introductory activity can be used as the Squirrels arrive a 'joining-in' style game, such as 'The farmer wants a wife' or 'Duck, duck, goose' or a circle format ball game. Add snack time where necessary!

TIME (mins)	ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT
5	Welcome, Register, Opening Ceremony, Introduction to Programme	
10	<p>GAME: Roots, Trunk, Leaves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Squirrels stand in a line facing a Leader who calls at random, 'roots', 'trunk' or 'leaves'</i> ○ <i>When 'roots' is called – the Squirrels crouch down and stretch out their arms and legs like spreading tree roots</i> ○ <i>When 'trunk' is called they stand up very tall and straight</i> ○ <i>When 'leaves' is called they spread out their arms and wiggle their fingers</i> ○ <i>For a twist, add extra words starting with the same letter, e.g. 'rhubarb'! Then the Squirrels shouldn't move at all!</i> 	None
10	<p>GAME: Tree Tops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>If the playing area has different kinds of trees, take a look at them, see if the Squirrels know what type of trees they are</i> ○ <i>These trees can then be used in a 'run-to' style game!</i> ○ <i>If trees are not available, print out some outlines of different leaves (there are some examples below or search the internet for pictures). These can be held up by members of the Leadership team and the Squirrels run to them when the tree is called out!</i> 	Real trees or pictures of leaves with distinctive shapes – oak, ash, holly, chestnut, beech, etc.
10	<p>ACTIVITY: Hug a Tree</p> <p>Find a tree with a really big trunk – can the Squirrels all join hands around the tree and give it a great big hug! Get to know the tree – what type do the Squirrels think it is? They can feel the bark – is it rough or smooth? What are the leaves like? Does it have nuts or berries? How tall do they think it is? How old do they think it is? Who do they think lives in it?</p> <p>Lots of birds and insects depend on trees for their homes and food! Red and grey squirrels love to eat acorns from oak trees and pine cones from pine trees! Look around to see if a squirrel has been eating some nuts or cones nearby!</p> <p>If there are no big trees, the Drey could 'make friends' with a smaller one instead!</p>	A big tree!



10	<p>ACTIVITY: Tree-mendous Creatures Hunt around beneath the trees for interesting leaves, twigs, bark or perhaps some pinecones or acorns. The Squirrels can stick on some googly eyes to make their quirky creatures come alive! Don't forget to give the creatures some tree-mendous names! If there is no suitable material available at the venue, Leaders could collect up natural items in advance and spread these around the activity area! Self-adhesive googly eyes are available from the craft aisle in most supermarkets and The Works (book, craft and toy shop) Also online at Baker Ross at www.bakerross.co.uk</p>	<p>Found natural items – leaves, pinecones, twigs, bark, etc. Self-adhesive googly eyes</p>
10	<p>ACTIVITY: Leaf Hunt Divide the Drey into small groups with an adult for each group and go on a leaf hunt! Search around the ground or look up in the trees to see if the Squirrels can find the biggest leaf, the smallest leaf, a yellow leaf, a spiky leaf, a dried up dead leaf, a really long leaf!</p>	
5	Closing, Home	

