

Autumn

Some things you could do at home to extend your child's learning in this theme:



- Take your child for an **Autumn nature walk**. Talk to them about the changes in the weather. What do they notice about the trees and other plants? Help them to gather leaves, seeds and berries (remind them that some seeds/plants may be poisonous). Show them a leaf and see if they can find one of the same species. Can they find a bigger leaf? A red leaf? Two leaves joined together? Which tree do they think particular leaves came from?
- Your child could **make a bark rubbing** using wax crayons. Encourage your child to select colours which match the autumn leaves. Your child should then place a sheet of paper against a tree trunk and rub the wax crayon across to make an impression of the bark pattern. They could make rubbings of different types of trees, for example silver birch trees have smooth trunks while oaks are bumpy. You could write the type of tree on the back of the paper.
- Help your child to **take some photographs** during your walk. You may wish to return to the same area in the Spring. The photos would help your child to make comparisons and look for seasonal changes.
- **Talk to your child about the effects of litter on the environment**. Always encourage them to take any food packaging etc. home after a picnic or to put it in the nearest bin.
- Play **Kim's Game** using up to 10 items of autumn nature. For example, place an acorn; pine cone; oak leaf; maple leaf; conker; twig and rosehip on a tray. Talk to your child about the various items and help them to identify any they do not know the names of. Cover the tray with a tea towel. Ask your child to close their eyes and remove one item from under the towel, then keep it hidden. Uncover the tray. Can your child identify which item is missing? Once they have guessed correctly, return the item and repeat until all the items have been guessed. Cover the tray once more. Can your child recall all of the items on the tray? Offer your child clues if required. **For younger children you may wish to reduce the number of items.**

