

## ANIMALS IN WINTER (1 HOUR ACTIVITY)

PURPOSE: Teach children about what animals do during the winter.

**Activity One:**

**Story Book:** 'A Little Bit of Winter' by Paul Stewart

**Activity:** Make a hand and footprint rabbit.

Supplies Needed:

- Glue Sticks
- Cotton Balls
- Crayons

\* Ask each child to bring a cut out of their shoe print and hand print (doing the Spock "Live Long and Prosper" - see picture) on brown construction paper. The hand print becomes the head (palm = face, fingers = ears), while the shoe print becomes the body. Glue the hand print to the shoe print and add a cotton ball for the tail. Decorate with crayons. Be sure to label the back of each child's artwork with their name.

**Activity Two:**

**Story Book:** 'Bear Snores On' by Karma Wilson

**Activity:** Where do Animals live in the Winter?

Have the children sit in a circle. Find pictures of wild animals and talk about what each animals does to stay warm during the winter. Pass out the pictures. Have each child you gave a picture to tell the group what the animal is. Talk about what that animal does in winter.

- Examples:
- A Canadian Goose flies south in winter to live someplace warmer.
  - A fox grows a heavy coat in winter.
  - Deer look for food in winter. Gray squirrels eat nuts in winter.
  - Bears sleep in their hollows in winter. Mice sleep in winter too.

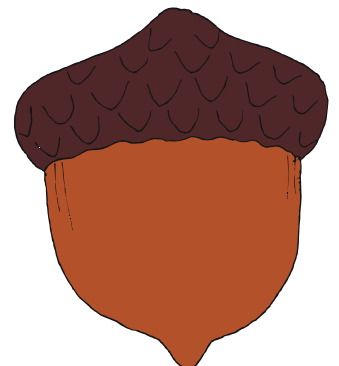
**Activity:** Animal Walk. Have the children stand up and march in a circle. With each round you make pretend to be one of the animals you've just talked about. Fly like a goose, walk like a deer or bear, scurry like a mouse, etc.

**Activity Three:**

**Story Book:** 'Bear Wants More' by Karma Wilson

**Activity:** Acorn Hide-in-seek

Make 20-30 acorns (you can use real if you have them) and hide around a room before the children arrive at playgroup. After reading this story, tell the children you are going to pretend to be squirrel and collect acorns to eat. Place a basket in the center of the room for them to deposit their acorns. While they search for food sing the following little song:



## ANIMALS IN WINTER (ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES)

**Songs and Finger Plays:****Where Is Bear? - sung to "Where Is Thumbkin?"**

(substitute any hibernating animal) *The animals I use are bear, rabbit, groundhog, raccoon, chipmunk, and skunk. The kids really enjoy this, especially if I let them call out which animal we're looking for.*

Where is bear?  
Here I am.  
Here I am.  
How are you this winter?  
Very tired, thank you.  
Go to sleep.  
Go to sleep.

-Submitted by Cheryl's Sweethearts ChildCare

**A Squirrel Song (to the tune of "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain")**

I'll be gathering all the acorns till they're gone. I'll be gathering all the acorns till they're gone. I'll be gathering all the acorns, gathering all the acorns, Gathering all the acorns till they're gone.  
(Children make collecting motion with their hands)

And I'll put them all inside my little home. I will put them all inside my little home. I will put them all inside, put them all inside, Put them all inside my little home.  
(children pretend to place nuts in tree house)

And I'll eat the nuts until the winter's gone. I will eat the nuts until the winter's gone. I will eat the nuts until, eat the nuts until, Eat the nuts until the winter's gone.  
(children pretend to eat acorns)

Then I'll do it all again come next fall. I will do it all again come next fall. I will do it all again, do it all again, Do it all again come next fall.  
(children make gathering motion with hands and arms again)

-Submitted by Cheryl's Sweethearts ChildCare

## ANIMALS IN WINTER (ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES)

### Craft

#### **Pinecone Bird Feeders** [15 Minutes]

When you make this simple bird feeder, the birds get a treat, and your child learns how birds eat

#### **You'll need:**

- peanut butter
- pinecones
- birdseed
- zip-locking bag
- string
- book on birds (optional)

#### **What to do:**

1. Together with your child, look carefully at the birdseed and discuss the shapes and colors. Talk about how birds use their beaks to crack open the seeds to eat them. If you wish, look in a bird book at the different kinds of beaks birds need to have to eat different kinds of seed.
2. Invite your child to coat the pinecone with peanut butter.
3. Let him put some birdseed and the pinecone in a plastic bag. Zip-lock the bag.
4. Encourage your child to shake it until the pinecone is coated with seeds.
5. Together, remove the pinecone from the bag, tie a string around it, and hang it from a tree.

Watch the birds as they enjoy this treat

#### **Let's Talk: Ideas to Explore Together.**

- Where should we put our feeder? Why?
- What do the birds use to crack and eat the seeds?
- Are there any seeds that you like to eat?

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#### **Animal Coloring Pages:**

After reading a story about a particular animal, (bear, squirrel, fox, etc.) print a black and white picture of the animal for each child in the group. Use this as the foundation of an art project. Choose a medium (crayons, finger paints, tempera paints, pieces of construction paper or tissue paper and glue) and let the children color the animal.

Coloring Pages of Animals that Hibernate:

[http://www.first-school.ws/theme/animals/cp\\_forest.htm#realistic](http://www.first-school.ws/theme/animals/cp_forest.htm#realistic)

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#### **Animal Masks:**

Using paper plates and markers, let each child create their own animal mask. Then go on an animal walk and let each child take a turn leading the walk moving like their animal would move.

For directions visit - <http://psc.disney.go.com/disneychannel/playhouse/grown-ups/projectplaytime.html>