

# Topic Plan Ideas – In the woods

This pack contains some activity ideas for the 'In the woods' topic as well as some blank forms for you to note down your own ideas. Staring at a blank page when planning can be difficult so we hope that even if you don't end up using our exact suggestions, they will be a spark of inspiration for your own great ideas when planning for your children.

(The different sheets are outlined below so you can decide which sheets you need to print).

Ideas sheet (Colour) – p2

Ideas sheet (BW) – p3

Blank ideas headings sheet (Colour) – p4

Blank ideas headings sheet (BW) – p5

Completely blank ideas sheet (BW) – p6

Blank Prime Areas of Learning sheet (Colour) – p7

Blank Prime Areas of Learning sheet (BW) – p8

Blank Prime & Specific Areas of Learning sheet (Colour) – p9

Blank Prime & Specific Areas of Learning sheet (BW) – p10

**We hope this helps!**

### Fine Motor

- Picking up small woodland items using child tweezers.
- Use playdough to make small twigs and stones.

### Number/Counting

- Scavenger hunt in outdoor area or in the woods e.g. find 3 leaves.
- Make numbers using natural woodland items.
- Counting walk e.g. we saw 2 squirrels.

### Tuff Trays

- Small world woodland e.g. for fairies or minibeasts.
- Mud, stones, twigs, grass and leaves for children to create their own woodland scene with real items.

### Messy Play

- Mud Kitchen
- Wet leaves for children to feel the different textures.

### Shape/Pattern/Symmetry

- Make shapes using natural woodland items e.g. square using leaves, a triangle with sticks.
- Make repeating patterns using natural woodland objects.

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### Personal Opinions & Feelings

- What is your favourite thing about being in the woods?
- Discuss different feelings; happiness, worry, excitement, etc. How do we feel when in the woods?

### Measures

- Size comparison of Three Bears objects or natural woodland items.
- Using non-standard units (e.g. blocks) to measure items in the woods.

### Health & Self-Care

- Woodland safety. What dangers are there? How can we keep safe?
- Handwashing importance after exploring the woods/outdoor area.

### Nurturing Relationships

- Hand out woodland themed cards or items. Children to find their pair.
- When collecting in the woods, encourage working in a pair to build teamwork.

### Gross Motor

- Move like woodland wildlife e.g. stand form like a tree and gently sway arms as if branches in the wind or scurry like a squirrel searching for acorns.
- Make large shapes and pictures in the mud with sticks.

### Investigation

- Woodland wildlife investigation area – trees, plants/flowers, birds, animals, minibeasts.
- Investigate life cycles e.g. birds and their eggs, butterfly, ant, frog.

### Role-Play

- Three Bears Cottage.
- Teddy Bears' Picnic.

## In the woods Ideas

### Mark making

- Use a twig or stone to make marks in the soil/mud.
- Writing a list of what we need to take to the woods.
- Writing/mark making a record of what the children see their friends doing in the woods.

### Creativity/Art/Design

- Make/build a squirrel's drey or bird's nest out of natural items (as the animal would) or using art and craft materials.
- Make a mandala design (patterns of items in concentric circles).

### Relevant Books

- Goldilocks and the Three Bears.
- No Place Like Home – Jonathan Emmett.

### Phonics/High Freq. Words

- Each child to have a small twig/stick with 4-5 high frequency words / phonic sounds laminated and hung from it along its length for them to take home to practice.

### Songs/Music/Poems

- Teddy Bears' Picnic – If you go down to the woods.
- Make the sounds of the woodland with instruments, body percussion or vocal sounds.

### Alphabet

- Make letters using natural items.
- Alphabet letter hunt in the woods.
- Place 4-5 letters prominently in the woodland space. Children to move towards the letter said by the adult.

### Mindfulness

- Go on a 'Mindfulness Woodland Scavenger Hunt' to engage the senses to find e.g. birds singing, something delicate, something you have never seen before, etc.

### Colours

- Sort natural woodland items by colour.
- Woodland colour walk.

### Science Experiments

- How do plants grow best? E.g. give one seed sunlight, water & soil and take one thing away from the others.
- Take a fresh leaf from the woods/outdoors and leave inside for a while. How does it change?

### Optional Home Learning

- Woodland senses walk – children explore with their family what they can see, hear, smell, etc.
- If a walk is not possible, watch video clips of the woods and discuss.

### Vocab & Communication

- Name and/or describe natural woodland items.
- As above, but this time with the items in a feely bag; describing from touch.

### Food

- Making sandwiches for a Teddy Bears' Picnic.
- Helping to make a forest fruit salad using strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries.

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Messy Play

Shape/Pattern/Symmetry

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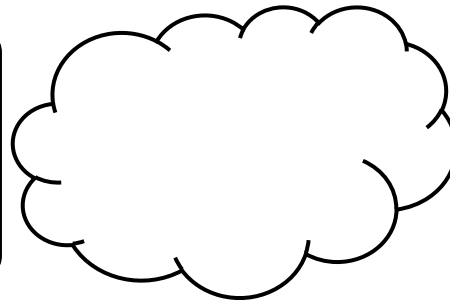
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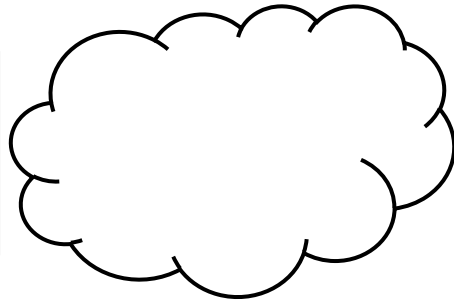
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# In the woods



**Communication and Language**

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

**Physical Development**

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Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Physical Development



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Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Physical Development

In the woods

Literacy

Mathematics

Expressive arts and design

Understanding the world

Communication and Language

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