



# WEEK 10: BADGERS

## NATURE WALK

Go for a quiet nature walk after it's rained. Look out for the rain washed leaves, listen to the sound of a full stream and stop and smell the earth.

## RECIPES TO TRY

A pine cone bird feeder.



## Garden Jobs

Raise pots off the ground by creating feet with bricks underneath.

Make a bird feeder

## Collect

Pine Cones

## Book Ideas

Percy and the Badger by Nick Butterworth

The Hug by Eoin McLaughlin

## Provision

Create a story telling nook and leave a basket of Percy the Park Keeper books along with woodland creatures for your children to discover. If the children respond well to these stories perhaps set up a provocation for the children to solve. Percy the Park Keepers Hut has been damaged in a storm. What can he do and where can he live?

Have collections of photos available in your setting looking at the different patterns on animals fur (stripes and dots) and observe if children create their own representations of these in paint or mark making.

Show the children a video of how the badgers dig and burrow tunnels underground while working as a team. Consider if your continuous provision offer every day opportunities for developing gross muscle strength through digging. Do you have pipes and tubing that children can make their own tunnels with if they choose.



# BADGER FACT FILE

Badgers are mammals which means they are warm blooded. They have black and white striped faces which makes them easily recognisable and a long snout to help them smell their food as they have poor eye-sight. A badgers sense of smell is over 700 times stronger than ours! They use their long front claws to dig for earth worms, tree roots, bulbs and smaller mammals to eat. They are also very strong and can use the muscles around their jaw to move large rocks.

They can be found all over the UK in grasslands, woodland areas and even gardens. Badgers live in large family groups in a burrow system known as a 'sett'. An occupied sett can be recognised by the tidy burrow entrances, marked with piles of used bedding which is made out of hay and leaves. The badgers will then go outside to poo. They are very social creatures and like to share out the cleaning jobs.





## WEEK 10: BIRD FEEDERS

### You will need

- Seeds
- String
- Lard
- Raisins
- Cheese
- Pine Cones

### Steps 1:

Combine the seeds, lard, cheese, raisins in a large mixing bowl.

### Step 2:

Attach a length of string to your pine cone by tying it on.

### Step 3:

Cover your pine cone in the mix and leave to set in the fridge over night. Then hang it in your garden for the birds.





## WEEK 10: NATURE SHELF



How do you create and celebrate the moments of joy that come throughout the year? I like to create a nature shelf in the entrance to our setting that can be used as a way of creating a wonderful sense of arrival for young children and their families. It encourages discussion and a love for what is seen and experienced in the world around us. With a hope of making children and their families more present and strengthening the connections between home and setting. By encouraging children to add their natural treasures to this working display or observations. Here is a winter themed Nature shelf that I set up at the beginning of December last year. It simply had an artificial tree, Pussy Willow in a tall vase, pine cones and Holly collected by the children, twinkly lights to bring the enchantment and then the wonderful book *Pick and Pine Tree* by Patricia Toht. This book is a delightful read about a family choosing and decorating their own Christmas tree- offering many discussion points between setting and home. I like to collect snippets of observations and questions children ask too and just hand write these onto card and add them to the shelf. If placing your nature shelf in your provision you might want to include sketch books or paints to encourage children to create their own representations of the natural artefacts.





- Over the winter period you might want to include other seasonal items like;
- LED Candles in candle holders
- Small world figures like peg people (like these wonderful custom made Peg families [Click Here](#) and use code HYGGE10 for 10% off!) and small world animals and birds.
- White fabric and wintery decorations
- Snowy artificial trees
- Pine cones
- Wooden stars
- Baubles in a jar
- Mirrors
- Sheepskin rug
- Dried orange slices
- Cinnamon Sticks
- Twigs in a jar
- A collection of explorer patches you've earned
- Nature sheet about winter trees
- Information sheets on making a bird feeder for parents to take home

