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Smithsonian Early
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Animals in Your Neighborhood

- We are going to learn more about the animals around our homes!
- Some of us live in D.C., some in Maryland, and some in Virginia but we all have similar animals in our backyards!





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Let's Sing A Song!

Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks
Went out one day
Over the hills and far away
Mother duck said
"Quack, quack, quack, quack"
But only four little ducks came back.

...(Continue counting down)

One little duck
Went out one day
Over the hills and far away
Mother duck said
"Quack, quack, quack, quack."
But none of the five little ducks came back.

Sad mother duck
Went out one day
Over the hills and far away
The sad mother duck said
"Quack, quack, quack."
And all of the five little ducks came back.

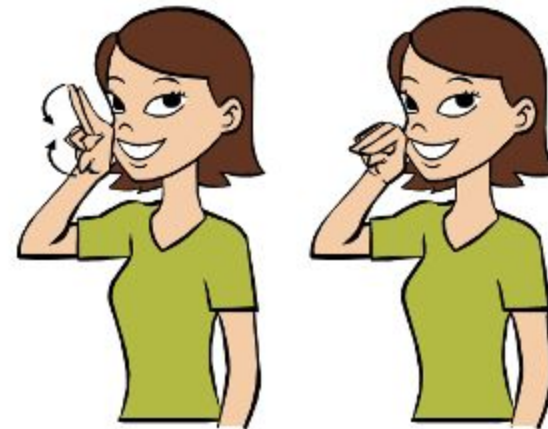


Image courtesy of babysignlanguage.com



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Jump Like a Fox!

- Foxes are able to jump pretty high, so see how high your child can jump, like a fox.
- If your child is walking confidently, encourage them to try jumping up and down.
- Bend down low, and jump up into the air with your hands over your head, the more exaggerated the better!
- **Don't forget:** jumping is hard! Your child's first jumps might look more like squats than jumps but keep encouraging them to practice!¹



¹ Image Courtesy of: citywildlife.org



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What Does the Fox Say?²

- Listen to the sounds a fox makes
- It sounds similar to a dog barking!
- Youtube Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_o-TImnrNo&feature=youtu.be



² <https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/red-fox-vulpes-sitting-attention-direct-392638390>



Squirreling Away Some Snacks

- Squirrels³ are probably the most common thing we see in our neighborhoods. They are in the trees, in the streets, and in our yards looking for a yummy snack!
- Squirrels love nuts, seeds, fruits and bugs but they don't always remember where they buried their food for later.
- Let's make them some snacks that are easy, yummy, and safe for your children too!



³ Image Courtesy of: citywildlife.org



Squirrel Snack Recipe

Ingredients	Directions ⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 1 large egg● 1 ½ cups all purpose flour● ⅓ cup of unsalted butter● ½ cup of sugar● ½ teaspoon of baking soda● ½ cup of brown sugar● 1 cup of peanut butter (crunchy or smooth)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Feel free to sub out for any kind of nut or sun butter you prefer!	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Preheat oven to 375F2. Grease two cookie sheets or line with aluminum foil3. Combine all dry ingredients4. Add wet ingredients and mix until well combined5. Press flat with the palm of your hand or a fork6. Bake one sheet at a time for 10-12 minutes7. Remove from cookie sheet and let cool on a cooling rack

⁴ Recipe Courtesy of: <https://www.birdsandblooms.com/blog/squirrel-cookie-recipe>



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Birds of D.C. in National Museum of Natural History





Life Sized Bird Nest

Materials	Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A big box or a large laundry basket● Fillings<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Blankets○ A few sticks○ You○ Anything you'd like● Balls, balloons, or toy eggs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Place all of your items inside your nest2. Make it cozy!3. Sit inside your nest while you watch or listen to the birds<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. This can be fun for any age: infants, toddlers, older children or adults! 



Sensory Bottle

- To remember your time outside looking for your neighborhood animals make a sensory bottle or bag
- Take a water bottle or sturdy plastic bag and while outside with your child collect:
 - Sticks, leaves, grass, rocks, etc.
- After it's secured tight, let your child shake it up or explore!⁵



⁵ <https://chalkacademy.com/leaf-sorting-sensory-bottles-nature/>