

WHERE THE WILD
ONES LEARN

Hibernation Nature Study

EARLY YEARS

AGES AROUND 3-5

THROUGH THE WILD LENS™

Shared noticing, shelter and nature play

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36-PAGE NATURE STUDY

Three mammals, three winter stories

You might need: The photographs on pages 6, 8 and 10; optional toys or movable picture labels.

LOOK SIDE BY SIDE

A hedgehog has spines. A hazel dormouse has fur. A bat has wings. All three examples can hibernate, but they do not use the same kind of winter shelter.

LET THE CHILD CHOOSE

Offer two or three pictures. A child may match a toy, notice a colour, invent a story or ask where one lives. Matching and naming are options, not a test.

FOR THE ADULT

The shared idea is reduced energy use. The details differ between species and individuals. Avoid telling children that every animal goes to bed on the same date.

Make from a hedgehog interest

You might need: A cardboard tube or flat card, paper scraps and a suitable joining material. An adult can pre-cut pieces.

A MAKING INVITATION

Offer a cardboard tube or flat card, paper scraps and a suitable joining material. A child may make a hedgehog, a shelter or something else. A pre-cut outline is an option if requested.

IF A REAL DETAIL MATTERS

Look at the spines and face in a photograph. The child can decide how to represent them. Leaves in a model are a chosen material, not an exact picture of a hedgehog’s body.

PRACTICAL SUPPORT

An adult can cut or hold pieces while the child directs. Avoid tiny eyes or loose parts when unsuitable. Keep glue, paper and the completed model indoors or remove them after outdoor play.



A paper-and-leaf hedgehog example. WTWOL photograph.