Cache and Seek!
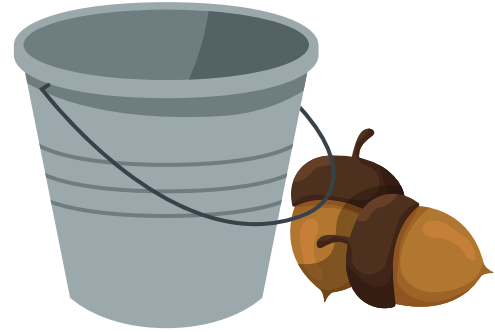
Gather!

Jump!

Balance!

Obstacle:

Tinkergarten pails and nature treasures.

Squirrel Challenge: Gather!

In the fall, squirrels gather nuts, seeds, acorns and other food to store for winter. Squirrels carry their treasures in their cheek pouches to easily transport them back to their hiding spot. We don't use our cheek pouches to carry treasures, but we can gather like squirrels with our Tinkergarten pails!

Extra challenge: How quickly can you fill your pail?

Modifications for all mobility levels:

Make a collection of nature treasures available for stationary explorers to use to fill and dump their pails.

Obstacle:

Tinkergarten pails, nature treasures & hiding spots.

Squirrel Challenge: Cache and Seek!

In the fall, squirrels hide their food and supplies, then find them again in the winter when they need them. The hiding process is called "caching". Find a few different hiding spots for all of the treasures you collected in your pail.

Extra challenge: Use leaves and other objects to hide your secret caches.
Welcome a guide or friend to seek your cached food!

Modifications for all mobility levels:

Make a collection of leaves and other nature objects available for explorers to create a hideaway for their treasures.

Obstacle:

Tinkergarten pails placed upside down in a row.

Squirrel Challenge: Balance!

Squirrels use their tails to balance as they climb and jump from branch to branch. Put your arms out to the side as you walk along the buckets. It's like having two tails!

Extra challenge: Try holding out just one arm as you balance. Can you walk with your arm behind you like a squirrel tail? Or, add a log or something tippy to the end!

Modifications for all mobility levels:

Sit on a log, on a wall, on a guide's knee or on the edge of a seat, put arms out and lean back and forth to balance.

Obstacle:

Bean bags placed 1 foot apart in a row.

Squirrel Challenge: Jump!

Squirrels can jump up to 20 feet and have special pads on their feet to cushion them from such long jumps. Jump between the bean bags. How high can you jump?

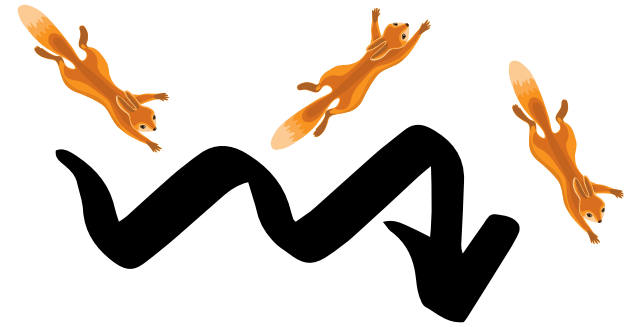**Extra challenge:** Can you jump side to side? Can you jump backwards?

Modifications for all mobility levels:

Sit and let your hands "jump" and "land."

Leap!

Scurry and Dart!

Memory Game!

Tail Talk!

Obstacle:
Beanbags placed 2-3 yards apart in a zigzag.

Squirrel Challenge: Scurry and Dart!

Squirrels often run in a zig-zag pattern to help them escape from predators. Run between the bean bags in a zig-zag pattern.

Extra challenge: Try it on all fours!

Modifications for all mobility levels:

Drag a stick along open earth to draw zig zag lines or connect the "dots" between stones placed on the ground.

Obstacle:
Piece of twine or rope laid out on the ground.

Squirrel Challenge: Leap!

Squirrels take giant leaps between tree branches. Get a running start, then leap across the rope.

Extra challenge: Use a bean bag or nature treasure to mark how far you can leap. Try again to see if you can leap even farther.
Try to leap from object to object (e.g. rock to rock or log to log)

Modifications for all mobility levels:

Sit and let your hands "leap" and "land."

Obstacle:
Our bodies and any open space.

Squirrel Challenge: Tail Talk!

Squirrels flick their tails to communicate different messages to other squirrels. Use your body to make a movement.
Then, invite friends to repeat your movement back to you.

Extra challenge: Using only movement, have a "conversation" with a friend or your guide.

Modifications for all mobility levels:

Use your hands to make a movement while sitting.

Obstacle:
Tinkergarten pails.

Squirrel Challenge: Memory Game!

Squirrels use their super memory skills and their sense of smell to find their hidden caches of food. Put a few treasures on the ground for a friend to see. After a minute, cover them with a bandana. How many can they remember?

Extra challenge: Guides can play with explorers or explorers can play with one another.

Modifications for all mobility levels:

Close your eyes and play the memory game using your sense of touch instead of your sense of sight.