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Autumn Detective: Hedgehog Investigation

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Autumn Detective: Hedgehog Investigation
Age: 4–6 years
Time: 40–45 minutes

Objective:

- To introduce children to the concept of **hibernation**
- To develop observation and problem-solving skills
- To encourage teamwork and expressive language
- To practice describing materials and processes

Materials:

- Natural materials from the school garden (leaves, twigs, pinecones, acorns, etc.)
- Craft materials if needed (glue, small paper eyes, etc.)
- Pictures of hedgehogs and their hibernation

Activity Steps:

1. Introduction: Becoming Autumn Detectives (5–10 min)

- Gather children in a circle and introduce the theme:

- “Today we are autumn detectives! Our mission is to learn about hedgehogs and hibernation.”

- Explain the word **hibernation** in simple terms:
  - “Hibernation is when animals sleep for a long time in winter to stay safe and warm.”
- Show a picture of a hedgehog and ask:
  - “Who knows what this is?”
  - “Where do hedgehogs sleep in winter?”





2. Detective Search in the Garden (15–20 min)

- Take the children outside to the school garden.
- Give them a detective task: collect natural materials to create hedgehogs.
- Encourage careful observation and collecting:
  - “Look around, what materials can you find?”
  - “Can twigs or leaves be part of a hedgehog?”
- Let children work individually or in small groups to make their hedgehogs.

3. Sharing and Reflection (10–15 min)

- Return to the classroom or a designated area.
- Children show their hedgehogs to the group and explain:
  - “How did you make your hedgehog?”
  - “Was it easy or difficult?”
  - “What materials did you use?”



- Encourage others to ask questions and comment positively.

4. Optional Follow-Up Discussion (5 min)

- Talk briefly about other animals that hibernate in autumn and winter.
- Reinforce the new vocabulary: hibernation, hedgehog, forest, leaves, winter.