

Squirrels & Beavers

Tracking



45 Minute session



12 participants + Adults



Supervision ratio as per P.O.R

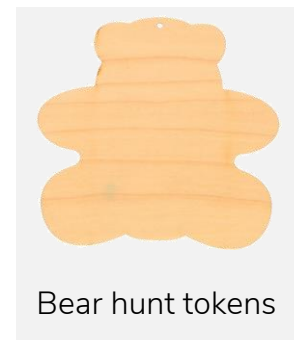
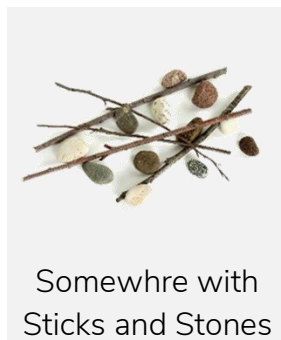


No qualification required

What is this activity?

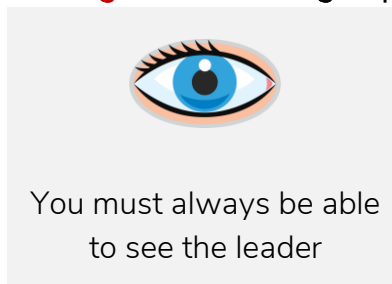
Tracking is a way of getting younger children to learn the skills of observation and navigation. It is a simple activity which teaches participants to be observant of their surroundings and think about following a route or track. Participants use sticks, stones, and natural materials to make signs which others can follow.

What equipment do we use?



How to run the session

Briefing Give the group some simple rules to follow (5 minutes)



TOP SECRET

While most adults stay with the group and play the first two activities you should send one adult off with a copy of the tracking sheet.

They will lay a long tracking trail (with the right symbols), hide some bear hunt token along the way and finish with a "gone home" symbol. At the end of the session the group will try to follow the tracks!

Tracking Symbols Learn the correct symbols (10 minutes)



Split the group into pairs. Each pair will try to learn the different tracking symbols so they can follow them later.



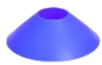
First use some sticks or stones to make one of the tracking symbols. Ask the group if they think they know what it means. Then explain it.



Next get everyone to collect 4 or 5 sticks or stones. Name a symbol and see if they can make the correct one OR hand each pair 1 tracking sheet and get them to play the same game in pairs – one names, one makes.

	This way!		Turn Left/Right		Choice of direction
	Wrong way!		Message/Item here		Gone home (Back to the start)

Mini Tracks Have a go at making some tracks to follow (15 minutes)



Work in a large space with clear boundaries. Explain that each pair will try to make a track that another team can follow. Each track will start with a coloured cones (each team should have a different colour!) The track can have “wrong ways” and should end with a “gone home” symbol.



Give each team a few minutes to make their tracks, helping if needed. Then get all the teams back together and get them to follow a different track (one that starts with a different colour). You can repeat this for all the different tracks if you like but once or twice is normally enough.

Bear Hunt Follow the trail to find the hidden bear tokens! (10 minutes)



Tell the group that someone has left a secret tracking trail for them to follow. Take the group to the start of the track and then everyone should set off trying to follow the trail.



When they find a “message/Item here” symbol they must stop and look around the areas for the hidden bear hunt tokens. At the end of the trail, they should have collected all the tokens. If you want, then you can make this a competition by seeing which groups finds the most tokens.



Playing Indoors?

Try using other objects to make the tracking symbols. Here are some ideas... shoes, cutlery, mugs, post-its, fruit, newspaper, or sticks from outside! You can also use chalk symbols on playgrounds and paths.