



Learning and playing with Seed Pods



Create a seedpod boat

Collect seedpods that have a deep casing. Add other natural items to decorate your boat, such as leaves, sticks and seeds. You can make a sail or even a nature person to have a ride.

See if the boat floats or sinks by adding some small rocks into the boat. How many rocks can you add before it sinks? Make two different sized boats and race them. Which one will go faster? The big boat, or the small one? What happens if you put rocks on one side?

Make a musical instrument

Find two seed pods the same size. Put some small pebbles inside and tie together with a long piece of grass or vine. Shake it to make sounds. Make up a song, or sing a popular song as you play your musical seedpod.

What happens if you change the size of the pebbles? or if you put more or less pebbles inside? What else could you use to make a shaker?



Digging time

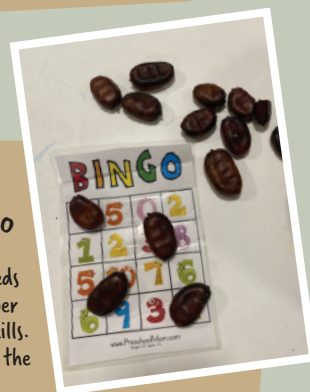
No need for a plastic shovel, use seedpods as scoops in mud, dirt and sand. Find different sized pods and see how far down you can dig. Add some water to create a different texture.

Is it easier to dig when water is added? Use the scoop to mix the water into the dirt or sand; the seedpod now becomes a stirring spoon. Can you make sandcastles? What can you make with the mixture?

Create seedpod bingo

Make bingo cards and use seeds as counters to support number recognition and fine motor skills. If you're out in nature draw the bingo cards in the dirt.

What numbers can you find? Can you make a pattern on the card? Which one is the biggest number? Which one is the smallest number? Are there any numbers the same?



Playing with seedpods helps develop the fine motor skills in children's hands, as well as hand eye co-ordination. These play activities also support social skills with turn taking, understanding of simple games with rules and building friendships.