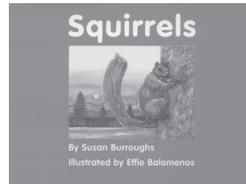


SQUIRRELS

Written by – Susan Burroughs
 Illustrated by – Effie Balomenos
 Set 10 - 119 words

Building Anticipation – Setting the Context

Hold a discussion about animals in the park, near the school and in the neighbourhood. Create a KWL (know, wonder, learn) chart about squirrels.



What We Know	What We Want to Know	What We Learned
Eat nuts Climb Jump Big tail Live in trees Small size	Other things they eat How many babies they have When the babies are born Who are their enemies	

Introduction

Tell the children this book is written as a report about squirrels and tells us many interesting facts. After a short discussion about reading for information, give each child a book. Have the children predict the letter or letter clusters on page 7 for *fluffy*, *black*, *gray*, *brown*. They can confirm their predictions by looking for the word in the text.

Have the children review the strategies they are learning to use to solve unknown words. After they complete an independent book walk, ask the children to read independently to find out one new fact about squirrels. Observe the children as they read to ensure that they are in the right group.

Discussion – Book Talk

Praise a reading strategy children were observed using and then ask children to share a few strategies they used.

Ask: *What new fact did you learn about squirrels? How do squirrels move about in trees? Where does it tell you in the book? What do squirrels eat? Who are their enemies? Did you find answers to the questions in the chart? Where will we find more information?*

Responding Creatively – Independent Practice

Children can:

- list all the foods squirrels like to eat. Using the book as a reference, circle the foods a squirrel can find near a school.
- use the reproducible master to draw a squirrel in each season and write a sentence telling what the squirrel is doing.
- choose another animal and read to learn more facts. Record information on KWL (know, wonder, learn) chart using pictures and labels.

Read Aloud Connections

The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin, by Beatrix Potter, Penguin, 1988.
Squirrels, by Buck Wilde, Shortland Publications, 1998.

Learning About Language - Focused Teaching		
High Frequency Words	then, of, from	Write a sentence that begins with <i>from</i> . Read your sentence to a friend.
Letters and Letter Clusters	<i>Nn</i> – nest, no, nuts <i>fl</i> – fluffy <i>bl</i> – black <i>gr</i> – gray, grass <i>br</i> – brown, branch	Think about the sound made by <i>bl</i> . Look for words in the room that start with <i>bl</i> . Record the words you find.
Onset and Rimes and Word Families	see, tree, wee gray, play, stay, away nest, best, rest, chest	Use movable letters to make the words containing the rime <i>est</i> .
Word Endings	<i>y</i> - fluffy <i>ch</i> - branch <i>st</i> - nest	Write a sentence using the word <i>nest</i> .
Compound Words	Forget, sometimes, birdfeeders	Can you find and record three other compound words? Underline one of the small words in the bigger word.
Contractions		Review familiar concepts.
Text Features		Review familiar concepts.
Poetry Links	<i>then</i> – <i>Meeting Bear</i> <i>of</i> – <i>Up and Down</i>	Feature these poems in shared reading. The high frequency words shown are found in the book as well as the poem.

Reproducible Master - Squirrels

Draw a squirrel in each season and write a sentence describing what it is doing.

Summer



In the summer a squirrel will _____
_____.

Fall



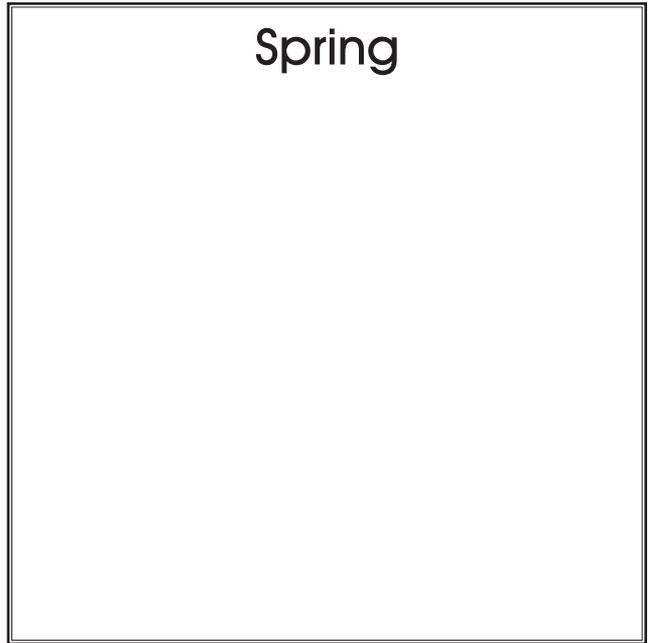
In the fall a squirrel will _____
_____.

Winter



In the winter a squirrel will _____
_____.

Spring



In the spring a squirrel will _____
_____.