

Pine Cone Magic

Did you know that when pine cones get wet they fold up and become skinny?
They protect the pine nuts from getting wet and sprouting.

Here's what you can do with children:

1. Find a jar that has a skinny bottle neck with a wide bottom
(Example: an old glass milk jar).
2. Put a wet pine cone in the bottle and let it dry out (it folds out when it is dry).
3. Show the children the pine cone that won't come out of the jar and ask them to figure out how you got it in there. Then ask them how they think you can get it out.
4. After your discussion add some water to the bottle. Later check the pine cone. (You will see that it has folded up.)

This is something you can do over and over again.