

Saving Up for Winter

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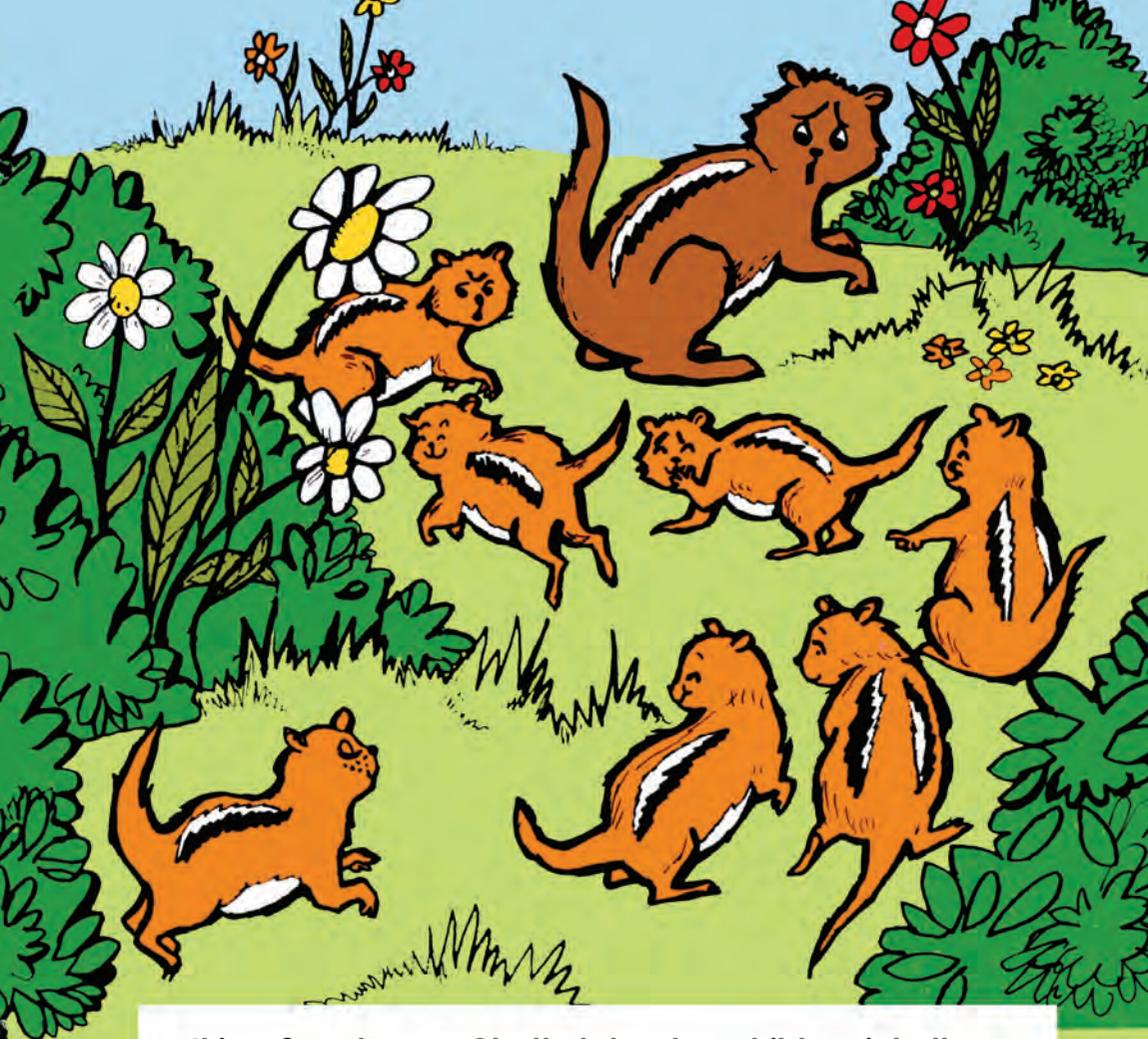
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Saving Up for Winter



Chatty Chipmunk lives at the end of a dark tunnel that starts under a rock in the park. Chatty's seven children are cuddled up in a furry ball at the end of the tunnel. They are not yet awake, but Chatty is. There she sits on the rock, sniffing the smells of the morning.

What kind of day will it be? If it is cold and windy, Chatty will stay home with her children. But if it is nice and sunny, she will take the little chipmunks into the park for a lesson. She has lots to show her children before they start life on their own.



It is a fine day, so Chatty takes her children into the park. As they file up the path, Twink, the smallest chipmunk, is last. He has a sore elbow where an ant bit him, and a sore leg where a thorn struck him, so he is a slowpoke this morning. Chatty fusses and grumbles. "Hurry up, Pokey," she snaps. All the little chipmunks giggle, but Twink doesn't care. He just hums a little chipmunk tune, and hops on as best as he can.





There is a circus in the park. Flags wave on the big tents, and the circus horses snort and stamp. But Chatty won't let her children watch the circus, or skip in the grass, or chase hummingbirds. No! This morning she makes them all sit in a circle, so they will pay attention to her.

"Children," Chatty says, "today's lesson is called **Saving Up for Winter**. It is the most important lesson I can give a little chipmunk. Are you all wide awake?"

All the children say yes.

"Well then," Chatty says, "can you tell me the name of this lesson?"

"Saving Up for Winter," says Chipper Chipmunk, the smartest of the children.

Chatty gives Chipper a smile. "That's fine," she says. "This lesson will show what a chipmunk does to stay alive when cold winds blow. Today the sun is shining, and there are lots of tasty things in the forest. But when snowstorms rage, these things are hard to find."

But then she stops, for Twink is nodding in the sunshine. Chatty won't let a chipmunk act like that in her class!