

Fall Fun




Gee Whiz[™]
Education

Fall Fun!



Enjoy the following fall activities with your children as desired!

Exploring Together: Leaves Are Falling

(all ages, 🗨️ 🧐 🖐️ ✍️ ❤️ 🎵)

Materials:

Leaves (real, nontoxic)

- This is a great activity to do outside on a nice, fall day. It helps children build language while encouraging creative movement at the same time.
- Fall is coming! Explain to the children that in many parts of the country, the season of fall brings changes in the weather. One of the main things that happens in the fall is that leaves change color and fall from the trees. Toss a few leaves in the air and watch them float to the ground. Then, sing the following song and invite the children to pretend to be fall leaves as you sing.

LEAVES ARE FALLING
(tune: "Are You Sleeping?")

Leaves are falling, leaves are falling,
All around, all around.
Dancing, spinning, twirling,
Twisting, swirling, whirling,
To the ground, to the ground.

Questions to Spur Thinking

- *What color is your apple? How does it smell? Feel?*
- *How many apples do we have all together?*
- *What types of foods do you like to eat that are made from apples?*

Questions to Spur Thinking

- *What color of fall leaf are you?*
- *How are you going to make your body look like a leaf falling from the sky?*
- *What do you like to do with fall leaves?*

Exploring Together: Put the Apple...

(all ages, 🗨️ 🧐 🧠 🖐️ 😊 🎵)

Materials:

Apples in a brown paper bag (1 apple per child)

- As children participate in this experience, they will build fine and gross motor skills as they practice following directions and identifying body parts. After using the apples for this fun activity, wash, cut and serve for snack!
- Shake the brown paper bag. Invite interested children to guess what might be inside. Have them touch the outside of the bag. Any ideas? What if they smell inside the bag without looking? Through this type of exploration, they will discover there are apples in the bag.
- Give each child an apple to hold. Invite children to use language to describe their apples. Ask questions at the left to get them thinking.
- Next, sing the following song. Change the body part each time you sing the song.

PUT THE APPLE ON YOUR...
(tune: "The Wheels on the Bus")

Put the apple on your (body part),
On your (body part),
On your (body part).
Put the apple on your (body part),
Do it now with me!

Advanced preschoolers can identify more challenging body parts like elbow and shin as you sing the song.

Program Symbols for Developmental Areas

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 🗨️ = Language Development | 🧐 = Social Studies Knowledge |
| 📖 = Literacy Knowledge | ❤️ = Social & Emotional Development |
| 🧠 = Math Knowledge | 🎵 & ✍️ = Music & Creative Arts |
| 🧐 = Science Knowledge | 🖐️ = Physical Development & Health |
| ? = Logic & Reasoning | 😊 = Approaches to Learning |

Fall Fun!

2 Small Group Activities (Toddlers-4 Years)

Press It!

(Toddlers-4 years, 🖐️ ? ❤️ 🔍 🗨️)

Materials:

- Leaves (real, nontoxic that are still soft and not dry)
OR silk/plastic
- Playdough
- Unbreakable magnifying glass

- During this experience, the children will build background knowledge about nature as they use their senses to make discoveries.
- Leaves are amazing when you look at them up close! Take children outside to collect leaves on the ground. How many different types can they find? What color of leaves did they find?
- Invite children to explore the leaves with an unbreakable magnifying glass. What do they see? Note the veins on the backs of the leaves. Now have children look at the backs of your hands. Do you have veins, too? Take a minute to explain how the veins in the leaves carry food to the plant just like the veins in your body.
- Provide playdough and leaves. Children can press the leaves into the playdough and then lift them up gently. What do they see?
- Advanced preschoolers can use an unbreakable magnifying glass to compare and contrast the leaf prints. How are they are same? Different?



Questions to Spur Thinking

- *How many leaves did you find? Which leaf is your favorite? Why do you like it best?*
- *What happened when you pressed the leaf into the playdough?*

- *How many leaves did you choose to put on your crown?*
- *Which works better for putting the leaves on the crown.—glue or tape?*

Leaf Crowns for a Fall Dance

(Toddlers-4 years, ✂️ 🎵 ❤️ 🗨️ 🖐️ 🔍 😊)

Materials:

- Access to real leaves** (or cut from construction paper)
- Box or basket
- Precut headbands cut white construction paper** (1 per child)
- Glue sticks, tape

- Creating something you can wear is often fun for children and a great way for them to practice fine motor skills. During this experience, the children will make crowns and then build gross motor skills as they wear them while having a dance.
- Let's celebrate fall with a dance! To begin, have children gather leaves in the backyard. What colors of leaves can they find? Can they fill a box or bucket with leaves?
- Next, provide each child with a strip of white paper and a glue stick or tape. Children can choose leaves to glue or tape on to their strips to create crowns. Engage children in conversation as they create. Once dry, fit each child's crown to his/her head and secure the ends with tape.
- Now it is time for the Fall Dance! Children can wear their leaf crowns as they dance to recorded music. If possible, do this part of the activity outside and just maybe, some fall leaves will come down while the children dance!

Fall Fun!

1 Infant Activity + 1 Small Group (Toddlers-4 years)

Questions to Spur Thinking

- How many leaves do you have to drop?
- How many do you think will land inside the box? How many do you think will not?
- What do you think would happen if you tried to do this activity on a windy day?
- Where are other locations where you could try dropping the leaves?

Apples, Apples

(Infants, ♥ ♀ 📖 🗣️)

Materials:

- Construction paper apple hung above the diapering area
- Point to the apple hanging above the diapering area and describe it. This is a perfect way to model language and build vocabulary! Blow the apple or tap it with your finger so that it moves. Does the infant track the apple with his/her eyes?
- Recite the following rhyme as you change the infant's diaper.

APPLES, APPLES

Apples, apples, in a tree
Way up high where I can't reach.
Oh, they look so good to eat.
I bet they'd be a tasty treat.
Crunchy, crunchy, yummy, too.
Apples are so good for you!

How Many In? How Many Out?

(Toddlers-4 years, ① 🖐️ ♀ ? 😊)

Materials:

- 10 real leaves (or cut from construction paper)
- Cardboard box
- Access to a climbing structure (if possible) or child's step stool (one step)
- Leaves are so beautiful when they fall from the trees. Here is a fun way for children to make leaves fall and practice counting skills at the same time.
- Have children stand on the platform of a climbing apparatus or simply stand on a step stool. Provide 10 real or paper leaves and a cardboard box. Can children count the leaves with you to see how many they have?
- Children take turns dropping the leaves from the climbing structure or step stool into the cardboard box. After dropping the leaves, count to see how many landed in the box and how many did not.
- Advanced preschoolers can count how many land in the box and how many miss on their own. If they are ready to begin exploring addition combinations, you can print these on paper. For instance, if 3 leaves land in the box and 7 do not, you would print $3+7=10$ on paper. Record for each new number combination that occurs.



Apples are always a tasty, healthy treat!

Fall Fun!

1 School-Age Activity + 1 Infant Activity

Apples Tasting Party

(School-Age, 👧 🗣️ 👦 😊 🗣️)

Materials:

- 3-4 different varieties of apples***
- Small paper plates, sharp knife (teacher-use only!)
- Small wooden or plastic blocks (3-4 per child - match to the number of varieties of apples used)
- There are so many wonderful varieties of apples! Older children will enjoy having a tasting party to find their favorites.
- Place the 3-4 different varieties of apples on a table and invite children to explore them. Share the name of each variety with the children. Which one do they think they will like best?
- Have children help wash and dry the apples. Then, slice each one and give a piece to each child to taste. Put the remaining apple on a paper plate and print the name of the apple (variety) on the plate. If the child likes the apple, he/she should place a block next to the plate. If not, he/she should keep the block. Repeat this procedure for all of the varieties of apples.
- Next, have children stack the blocks beside each plate and use as a nonstandard graph. Children can compare the blocks stacks to determine which apple variety the group likes the best, the least, the same, etc.

* Before serving any food to the children, make sure to check with parents/caregivers.

Questions to Spur Thinking

- Which apple smells the best to you?
- Which apple do you think most of you will like the best? The least?
- Which apple did most of you like? Which apple did the least of you like? Were there any apples you liked the same amount?

Apples In a Pot

(Infants, 🗣️ 🎵 🖐️ ❤️)

Materials:

- Plastic apples or soft red balls
- Cooking pot
- Infants love to put things in and out! Putting apples in and out of a cooking pot can be a lot of fun and a great way to build fine motor control. A song adds an important element of literacy to the experience as well.
- Sit on the floor with the infant in your lap and the apples (or red balls) and cooking pot on the floor in front of you. Pick up an apple or red ball and put it in the pot. Invite the infant to mimic you. Repeat until all of the apples or balls are in the pot. Then help the infant dump out the apples/balls.
- Sing the following song as the infant puts the apples in the cooking pot and dumps them out.

PUT THE APPLES IN THE POT
(tune: "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Put the apples in the pot,
In the pot, in the pot.
Put the apples in the pot,
Look what you can do!

Can you dump the apples out,
Apples out, apples out?
Can you dump the apples out?
Look what you can do!

