

Apples! Apples!

Hands-on Activities for ALL Ages



Welcome to Gee Whiz Education

At Gee Whiz, we are excited that you have chosen to download our complimentary, “We Love Apples!” activity booklet. The experiences you find in this booklet are very similar to the ones we include in our curriculum which is specifically designed for family child care providers.

Below you will see a box that contains the developmental areas the experiences included in this booklet address and the associated picture codes. When you read the activity plans, just look for these codes. They will tell you what developmental areas you are addressing as you do each experience. This makes documentation super easy and enables you to make sure you are addressing all developmental areas for all developmental levels on a consistent basis. Please see our User’s Guide for more information on the 10 developmental areas and the 40 Gee Whiz Learning Indicators.

Following this page, you will find hands-on experiences for ALL ages in your group! **Items in red may need a little more time to prep or gather.** We hope you find them super easy to follow and a lot of fun! Please, feel free to reach out to us at customerservice@geewhizeducation.com if you have any questions. We are excited to have you try our experiences and hope you will also look into our curriculum. You can find out more at www.geewhizeducation.com.



Gee Whiz Developmental Areas & Learning Indicators	
 Language Development (LD1, LD2, LD3, LD4)	
 Literacy Knowledge (LK1, LK2, LK3, LK4, LK5)	
 Math Knowledge (MK1, MK2, MK3, MK4, MK5, MK6)	
 Science Knowledge (SK1, SK2, SK3)	
 Approaches to Learning (AL1, AL2, AL3)	
 Logic & Reasoning (LR1, LR2)	
 Social Studies Knowledge (SS1, SS2, SS3, SS4)	
 and  Creative Arts & Music (CA1, CA2, CA3, CA4)	
 Social & Emotional Development (SE1, SE2, SE3, SE4)	
 Physical Development & Health (PD1, PD2, PD3, PD4, PD5)	



This symbol indicates the experience addresses character education.



This symbol indicates the experience helps children build gross motor skills.



This symbol indicates the experience can, or should, be done outdoors.

Apples! Apples!

Enjoy the following activities with your children

Exploring Together: Apple Favorites

(all ages, 🗣️ 😊 📍 ❤️ ? 🕒 🙌)

Materials:

- Real apples*** (at least 3 different types, preferably red, yellow and green varieties) - **Keep 1 of each type whole and then wash and slice another of each type for the children to taste)**
- Duplos® or wooden blocks (same size and shape)

- The purpose of this experience is to help children recognize that there are many, many different varieties of apples. In addition, this experience also invites children to share their preferences while building expressive language skills. Adding a graphing extension to this activity serves to add a math component as well.
- Sit on the floor or at a table with the three different types of apples. As children join you, invite them to use their senses to explore the apples, talking about how they feel, smell and look. Encourage more verbal children to share what they like, or do not like, about apples as well as what they know about how they grow.
- Next, show the children the apple slices you prepared ahead of time and invite them to taste each variety of apple. As the children taste the apples, invite those who are more verbal to describe how the apples look, smell, feel, sound and, of course, taste! When working with nonverbal children be sure to use plenty of descriptive words to help build vocabulary.
- After tasting, have each child share which variety of apple he/she liked best. Place the whole apples on the floor and have each child place a block beside his/her favorite. If there is more than one block, the children should stack them. In doing so, they are actually creating a simple graph. Once each child has placed a block, use the graph to see which type of apple the children liked the most, the least or the same amount.

* Always check with parents/caregivers before serving any foods.

Questions to Spur Thinking

- Where have you seen apples before?
- Which apple do you predict you will like best?
- Which variety of apple do we like the most? The least? The same amount?

Get Moving!

Exploring Together: Put the Apple...

(all ages - 🗣️ ❤️ ? 😊 🙌 🎵 📍)

Materials:

- Paper apple for each child** - Print out a copy of p. 7 and cut apart)
- Here's an active game that will not only help the children practice following oral directions, it will also help them recognize and identify body parts at the same time.
- Let's play the group game, "Put the Apple..." You will play this game in a similar fashion to Simon Says. Begin by giving each child a paper apple. Instead of saying the directions, sing them using the following song and including a different body part each time.

PUT THE APPLE...
(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!

- As the children become familiar with the game, invite more advanced children to lead. This is a wonderful way for them to build expressive language skills while assuming a leadership role.

Questions to Spur Thinking

- What body part should we sing about next?
- Which body part was the hardest to put the apple on? Why?



Apples! Apples!

2 Small Group Activities (Toddlers-4 Years)

Sink or Float?

(Toddlers–4 years,     )

Materials:

- Water table or container of water
 - Apples (real)**, bowls, large cooking spoons (plastic), funnels, etc.
- This experience is designed to encourage children to make and test predictions while exploring the concepts of sink and float. At the same time, the children will need to practice self-regulation as they share materials and space while they also build fine motor control.
 - Set up the container of water or water table. Gather the materials listed above, including the apples. As children show interest, invite them to explore! Adapt and modify based on each child's developmental levels.
 - Toddlers/Twos: These children will probably just want to play with the apples and the materials. This is fine! Just describe their actions as well as what happens to the apples as they play with them.
 - Threes/Fours/Advanced Preschoolers: As these children show interest, give them an apple to explore and pass it around. Talk about the weight of the apple...is it heavy or light? Then, encourage the children to predict what is going to happen to the apple when placed in water. Will it sink or float? After children make their predictions, have them each put an apple into the water to discover the results. As the children explore the apples in the water, they can wash them. They can also explore to see if there is anything they can do to make the apples sink. If they choose to do this, it will open the door for them to practice problem-solving skills and creative thinking. Be sure to engage these children in conversations as they make, and test, their ideas.



Questions to Spur Thinking

- *What do you think is going to happen to the apple when you put it in the water? Why do you think that?*
 - *What could you do to try to make the apple sink?*
-
- *How many apples do you think are on the tree right now?*
 - *How do you think farmers pick apples?*

Apple Tree Math

(Toddlers–4 years,      )

Materials:

- Apple Tree Math Game, prepared** - Print out pgs. 7-8 and mount to heavyweight paper. Cut the page containing the apples apart by following the dotted lines.
- There are so many ways you can use this material with children at different developmental levels! We are going to provide you with just a few ideas but are sure you can think of other ways as well. Regardless on which option you choose, the children will build fine motor control, explore math concepts (counting, positional concepts, algebraic concepts) and so much more. You can also use this material to reinforce the concept that apples grow on trees.
 - Toddlers/Twos/Young Threes: With this group, you are going to focus on positional concepts as well as the terms more/less. Give these children a challenge such as, "Let's put all of the apples on the tree." You can count as the children add the apples to expose them to number concepts. Then, challenge the children to take some, or all, of the apples off the tree. If you think these children are ready, you could challenge them to take off all the red apples (or yellow or green).
 - Older Threes/Fours: These children can put any number of apples on the tree, estimate how many they think are on there, and then count with you to find the actual amount.
 - Advanced Preschoolers: These children can take things a step further. Have them put some of the apples on the tree and leave some off. Then, have them count the number on and the number off. Write this as an addition fact. Then, have them repeat with a different number on & off. Does the sum change? Why not?

Apples! Apples!

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

Questions to Spur Thinking

- *What is your favorite thing to eat that is made with apples?*
- *What do you think is going to happen to the apples as they cook inside the turnover?*
- *How did the apples change as they cooked?*
- *What other things could we make with apples?*



Apples in the Basket

(Infants, 🗣️ 🎵 ❤️)

Materials:

- ☐ **Real apples (washed)**, basket

- Infants love to put things in and take things out. This is an excellent way for them to build fine motor control. Using apples also adds a sensory element because of the way they look, feel and smell. Adding a song is a wonderful way for you to build receptive language skills.
- Sing the following song as the infant puts the apples in the basket and then takes them out.

YOU PUT THE APPLES IN
(tune: "The Farmer in the Dell")

You put the apples in,
You put the apples in,
You fill the basket up and then
You take them out again.

Apple Turnovers

(Toddlers-4 years, 😊 🔑 ❤️ 🗣️ 🙌)

Materials:

- ☐ **Refrigerated crescent rolls** as
- ☐ **Apples** (peeled and cut into slices)
- ☐ Cinnamon, sugar
- ☐ Baking sheet, plastic knives

- Children love to cook! Not only is cooking an engaging experience for them, it also incorporates following directions, self-help skills (washing hands, using a plastic knife) as well as fine motor control.
- Who wants to make apple turnovers? To make this tasty treat, gather the materials above. Before beginning, have each child wash and dry his/her hands thoroughly. Adapt and modify based on the developmental levels of children in your group.
- Toddlers/Twos/Threes: For these children, you will not only want to wash and peel the apples, you will want to dice them into small pieces as well. Working with just one child at a time, help him/her flatten a crescent roll, put a spoonful of diced apples and some cinnamon inside and then pinch the edges shut.
- Fours/Advanced Preschoolers: Give each of these children a plate to use as a work surface. Provide each child with a plastic knife and several apple slices. Invite the children to cut their apple slices into small pieces. As they do so, be sure to talk about how the apple looks, smells and of course, save a piece to taste! Next, give each child a crescent roll (dough) and have him/her flatten it slightly. Note the shape of the dough (triangle). Then, have the children place their chopped up apples inside the triangle. Sprinkle with a little cinnamon and sugar and gently fold over. Have the children press the sides of their dough together. Bake as directed until the crescents are golden brown. As the apple turnovers bake, encourage these children to share what they smell. You might also want to encourage them to predict how the apples are changing as they bake inside the turnovers. Be sure to cool before serving! Then, have these children describe how the apples changed as they enjoy their taste apple treats!

Apples! Apples!

1 School-Age Activity + 1 Infant Activity

Apple Tic-Tac-Toe

(School-Age, 😊 ❤️ 🙌 ? 🗨️)

Materials:

- Tic-tac-toe grid made with blue painter's tape on a carpeted surface OR drawn outside with chalk on a driveway, sidewalk or patio
- 5 red paper apples and 5 yellow paper apples** (you can use a copy of p. 7 OR cut some from construction paper)
- School-age children usually enjoy playing tic-tac-toe. This experience invites them to play a simple game with rules that involves apples instead of X's and O's. It is also a great activity where strategy comes into play.
- Show the children the tic-tac-toe grid and the paper apples. Invite the children to use these materials to play tic-tac-toe. Chances are good they will already be familiar with this game. Just explain that they are going to be using red and yellow apples instead of X's and O's.
- As the children play, talk with them about the game. Note if any of the children get upset when they lose. This would be an excellent time to reinforce self-regulation skills in a meaningful way.

EXTEND FOR ANOTHER DAY: Invite your school-age children to teach your younger ones how to play Apple Tic-Tac-Toe. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to assume a leadership role.



Questions to Spur Thinking

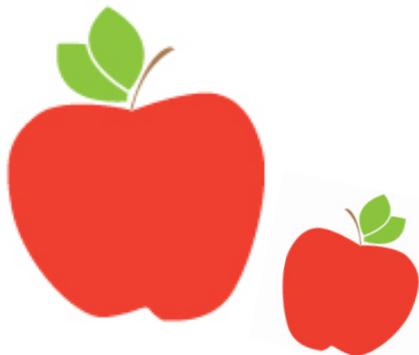
- *What do you like best about playing tic-tac-toe?*
- *How is this game of tic-tac-toe different from the one you usually play?*
- *Why did you choose to put your apple there?*
- *Was that a good move? Why or why not?*
- *What makes a "good winner?"*

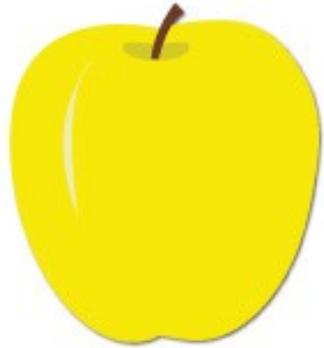
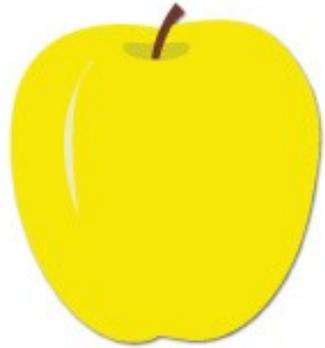
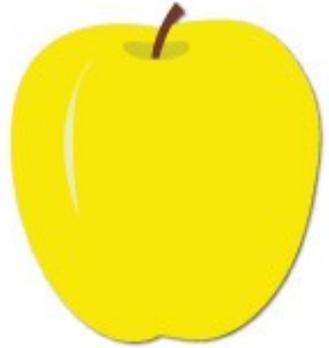
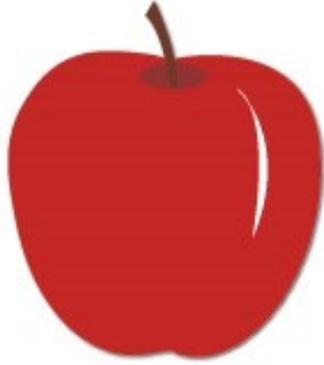
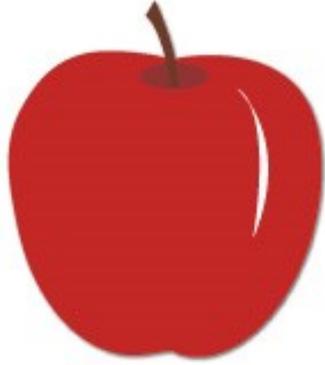
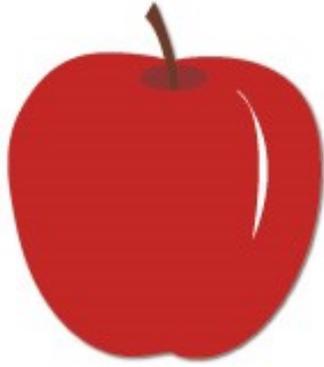
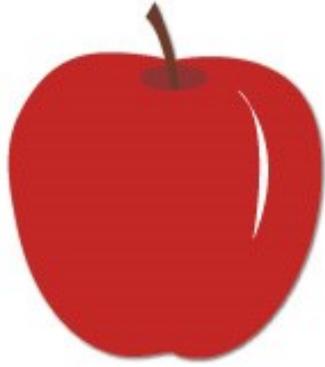
Applesauce...Yum!

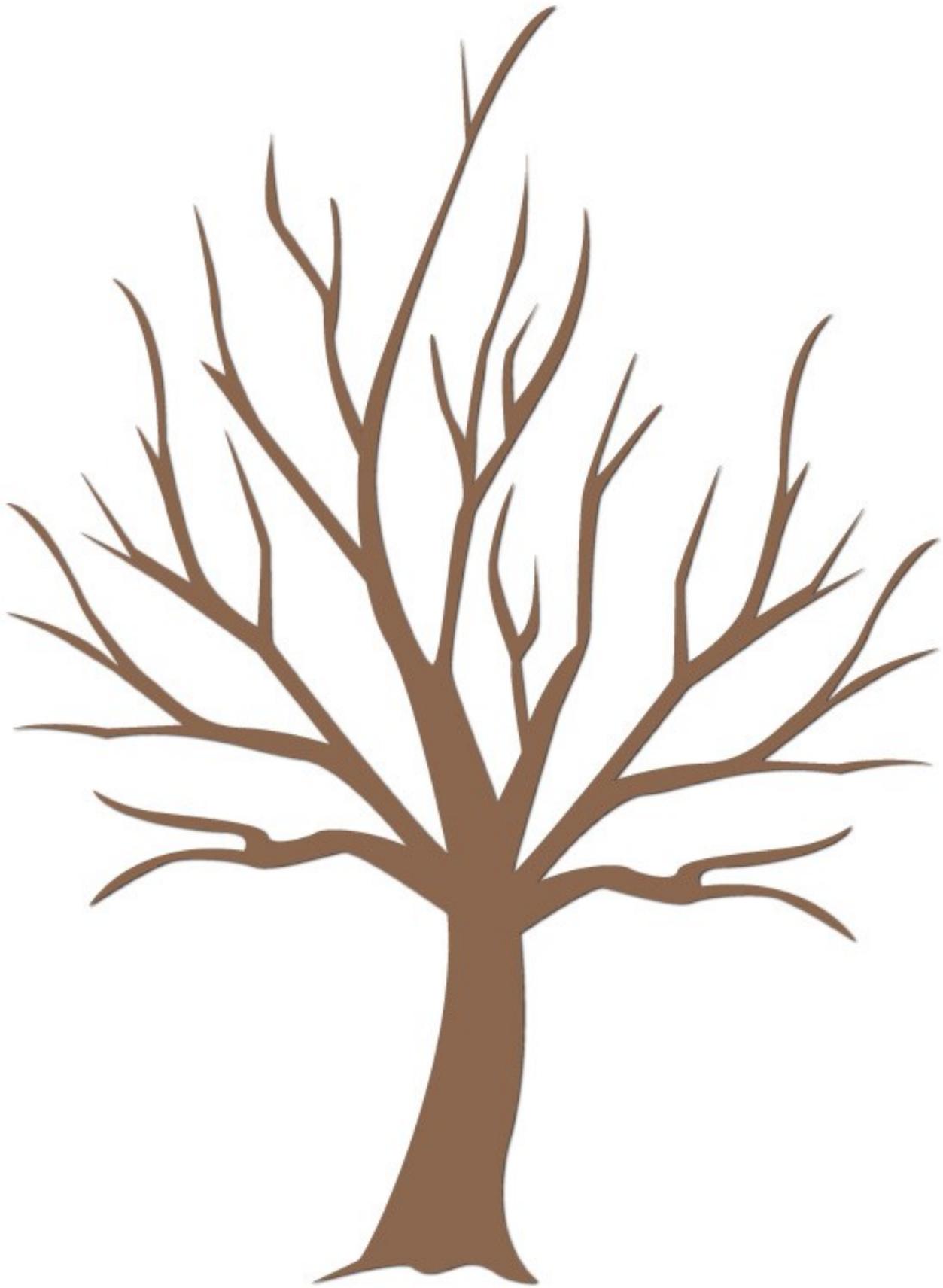
(Infants, 🗨️ ❤️)

Materials:

- Applesauce** (baby food or regular)
- Bowl, infant spoon
- This experience is designed for those infants that are eating solid foods. Depending on the parent/caregiver's preference, you can serve baby food or regular applesauce. Learning to feed oneself is an important self-help skill that your older infants may be ready to explore.
- Depending on the developmental level of the infant, either feed him/her applesauce or have him/her attempt this task on his/her own with support from you. As the infant enjoys the applesauce, talk about how it tastes, looks and smells. This is a wonderful way for you to build expressive language skills! You may also want to incorporate language about how the applesauce feels because chances are good you, and the infant, will both be very sticky by the end!







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