

Theme: Apples

Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- Hopscotch on red/green apples (drawn on concrete with sidewalk chalk)
- Musical chairs with apple shapes on seats or floor—all red and one green
- Toss fake apples into bushel basket
- Spoon race with apples

Math/Small Motor/Manipulatives:

- Count apple shapes on flannel board
- Count real apples; do simple addition and subtraction activities
- Lace around an apple shape
- For older kids: apple tic-tac-toe with red and green apple-shaped pieces
- String wooden beads and pretend they're apples

Science Activities:

Examine apple seeds, apple sauce, apple blossom, and the bark of an apple tree with a magnifying glass.

Snack Ideas:

Fruit pizza, apple cinnamon bread or muffins, applesauce, apple-shaped cookies (let the children decorate them), stencil an apple on top of cookies or cupcakes, apple slices with caramel dip, apple pie with ice cream, fruit cup, apple slices with cheddar cheese, apple juice, mini-popsicles from apple juice (freeze apple juice in an ice cube tray—when the juice gets very slushy but not quite frozen solid, add a toothpick for the “stick”)

Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

Visit an apple farm/orchard; visit a fruit stand or grocery store and let children select an apple each for their afternoon snack

Songs & Fingerplays:

See the following website for songs and fingerplays about apples:
<http://www.alphabet-soup.net/dir2/applesong.html>

Books:

Apple Fractions, by J. Pallotta & R. Bolster

The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by E. Carle

Apples and Pomegranates, by R. Musleah & J. Jarrett

How Do Apples Grow? By B. Maestro & G. Maestro

The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree, by G. Gibbons

The Apple Tree, by Z. Hall & S. Halpern

Clifford the Big Red Dog: The Big Itch, by A. Inches

How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World, by A Priceman

Orange Pear Apple Bear, by E. Gravett

Johnny Appleseed, by R. Lindbergh & K. J. Hallquist

Apples and Pumpkins, by A. Rockwell & L. Rockwell

The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Junk Food

Apple Trees, by R. Nelson

Apples, by I. Snyder

Apples, by G. Gibbons

Autumn Is for Apples, by M. Knudsen

Ten Red Apples, by P. Hutchins

Ten Apples Up on Top! By Dr. Seuss

Applesauce, by S. Kurtz

Apples, Apples! By S. Yoon

Dramatic Play:

Overalls, plaid shirts, toy tractors and trailers, apples, kitchen stuff, aprons with apple print fabric

Art:

- Red Apple Shape Books available from http://www.amazon.com/Edupress-RED-APPLE-SHAPE-BOOK/dp/B000NNO0R8/ref=sr_1_9?ie=UTF8&s=toys-and-games&qid=1238944086&sr=8-9 or make your own easily. Children can decorate the covers and draw their own pictures throughout the week in their shape books.
- Apple printing
- Collage with apple seeds
- Red, green, yellow apple collage (cut shapes from construction paper)
- Fingerpaint with red and green
- Crayon shavings between wax paper (red, green, yellow)
- Paint apples on clear glass easel-frames you can get at the dollar store; these can be cleaned off and re-used, but meanwhile, sit them in the window for the sunlight to shine through
- Spatter-paint over apple shape onto white paper

Circle Time Activities:

- Read stories about apple farms, apples, applesauce, etc., from the book list above; let children tell you what they liked about the stories; make or eat applesauce after reading the story (or apple pie, etc., related to the book you just read)
- Use a texture box (a box with a hole in one side in which children (without looking) put their hand and feel what's inside, trying to find the right item or describing what they're touching (which should include an apple))
- Letter "A" activities
- Create a flannel board story
- Apple hat – wear a large straw hat decorated with at least one fake apple (you can put Velcro on the front of the hat and change out the décor to match your unit themes; children love it and know that story time/circle time is about to begin!)
- Make apple butter to spread on toast
- Sing songs, do fingerplays and action rhymes
- Discuss the life cycle of the apple