

Fall

Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- Take a walk through the neighborhood looking at the fall trees and fall decorations; point out the piles of leaves, the crisp autumn air, etc.
- Kick ball – let children kick the ball around in the yard
- Duck-duck-goose variety: Fall-fall-leaves!
- Jump down (like you do in ring-around-the-rosey) and pretend you're a falling leaf
- Put paper leaves in different colors on the floor (or on the driveway or patio if you're outdoors) and let children find the right color to stand on when you say "red!" "green!" "orange!" "brown!" or "yellow!"
- Twirl around like you're a leaf twirling in the air, softly to the ground

Math Activities:

- Make paper leaves in different colors and shapes; let children count them and/or sort them by color
- Count the acorns – draw or trace acorns onto sew-in interfacing and color them to make acorns; children can place them on the flannel board by size, color, etc., and count them, too
- Add and subtract leaves or acorns to teach simple addition and subtraction
- Count the number of steps you take as you walk around the playground/yard

Science Activities:

- ✓ Examine leaves under a microscope or magnifying glass
- ✓ Dissect an acorn for the children to look at under the magnifying glass
- ✓ Examine the inside of a pumpkin; clean the seeds and plant them in Styrofoam cups to see if they will grow
- ✓ Examine pine cones to see what they look like with a magnifying glass
- ✓ Mix food coloring to create water that is orange, red, yellow, and brown

Small Motor/Manipulatives:

- ✓ Block play
- ✓ Sand/water table – fill with fall leaves and let the children find plastic squirrels, bears, etc., hidden underneath
- ✓ Squish your hands in pumpkin "goop", seeds included—feel the texture!

Snacks/special meals:

- Pumpkin pie, pumpkin cookies, and pumpkin stew! Pumpkin stew is made by cutting the tops off small pumpkins, scooping out the middle, and letting children choose the ingredients for their stew, such as potatoes, onions, corn, meat, carrots, etc. Place the filled pumpkins in a 10x13" pan and bake. Children will love them because they got to cook!
- Popcorn
- Hominy

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

Visit an apple farm and/or a pumpkin farm; be sure to take lots of pictures to display on the walls when you get back—children love to see themselves and to "remember" their trip to the farm!

Songs & Fingerplays: Google "preschool fingerplays fall" to get a list of great fingerplays from several websites; choose only 3-4 so children can learn them quickly and repeat them over and over, feeling successful because they have learned the words to a new song!

Art:

- Fingerpaint with red, orange, yellow, and brown
- Let children cut out large leaf prints and decorate them to use as placemats for their snacks/lunch
- Make collages with leaves, etc., picked up during your nature walk
- Paint faces on real pumpkins to be displayed in front of the house (family/group home) or around the room (if you work in a center)
- Make a mobile out of leaves and pumpkin shapes the children paint and decorate with glitter; display in the room

Dramatic Play:

Add flannel shirts, straw hats, and knit caps to your dramatic play area! Also add a few pumpkins, cookie sheets, and wood spoons and bowls so children can pretend to make pumpkin cookies

Books:

It's Fall by L. Glaser

Mouse's First Fall by L. Thompson & B. Erdogan

How Do You Know It's Fall? By A. Fowler

Why Do Leaves Change Color? By B. Maestro & L. Krupinski

Fall (Four Seasons Series) by N. Roca

The Fall of Freddie the Leaf by L. Buscaglia

Fall is Not Easy, by M. Kelley

Fall by T. Thayer

When Autumn Falls by K. Nidley & S. Swan

Fall is Here! By E. W. Good

Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf by L. Ehlert

Arthur Jumps into Fall by M. Brown

Fall is Here! Counting 1 to 10 by P. Jane & S. Haskamp

Animals in the Fall by G. Saunders-Smith

Now It's Fall by L. Lenski

Fall: Seasons Board Books by C. L. Demarest

When Autumn Comes by R. Mass

Leaves by D. E. Stein

Autumn is for Apples by M. Knudsen & D. Fernando

Pumpkin Soup by H. Cooper

Autumn Walk by A. Burg & K. Asbury

Leaf Man by L. Ehlert

Fletcher and the Falling Leaves by J. Rawlinson

Circle Time Activities (include reading time & literacy skills):

- How/why do leaves change color? Why do they fall?
- Anatomy of a pumpkin
- Squirrels & other animals prepare for winter
- Cut large leaf shapes, cover with contact paper, and put them on the floor for circle time. Children may choose a leaf to sit on while they listen to the story. Either read a book, or simply tell the story as you cut out a leaf version of paper dolls... leaves strung together. Children love to watch you cutting as you tell a story.
- Take one of the stories above (book) and create a coordinating flannel board story.
- Sing songs about the fall, substituting words in common songs, such as "Ten Little Red & Orange Leaves" instead of "Ten Little Indian Boys" – or "Five Little Squirrels" instead of "Five Little Ducks."
- Go on a couple of field trips! Be sure to take lots of pictures to post around the room when you get back!