



Fall Theme

The changing seasons are so much a part of many children's lives. Especially for those who live in the northern United States! It makes a fall theme so meaningful to children as they watch, discover, and learn about fall right out their own windows. Why not take a whole month and explore autumn closer!

Language & Literacy

Books

Fletcher and the Falling Leaves
by Julia Rawlinson

I Know It's Autumn by Eileen Spinelli

In the Leaves by Huy Voun Lee

Mouse's First Fall by Lauren Thompson

Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert

The Little Yellow Leaf by Carin Berger

Duck & Goose, Find a Pumpkin by Tad Hills

Leaves by David Ezra Stein

Fall Leaves Fall by Zoe Hall

We're Going On a Leaf Hunt by Steve Metzger

Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf by Lois Ehlert

These are some good ones to get you started or to add to enhance your theme.

Songs, Poems, & Finger-plays

Rake the Leaves

(Act out as you say it)
I like to rake the leaves
Into a great big hump
Take two steps back
Bend my knees and JUMP!

Autumn Leaves

Autumn leaves are
falling down, falling down
Autumn leaves are
falling down, all through the town.
Rake them up into a pile
into a pile, into a pile
Rake them up into a pile
Before they blow around.

Five Little Leaves

Five little leaves so bright and gay,
Were dancing about on a tree one day
The wind came blowing through the town
(cup hands at mouth and make a big sing song whoosh sound)
Wooosh! (have the kids say it with you)
One little leaf came tumbling down (remove one leaf from the tree)
Four little leaves so bright and gay.... (repeat poem)
One little leaf so bright and gay
Was dancing around on the tree one day,
That one little leaf came tumbling down,
All goooooone! (Shrug shoulders)

Five Little Leaves Felt Board Activity- Cut five leaf shapes and a tree trunk shape from felt. Invite the children to come up and remove a leaf after each verse.

Activities

Leaf Sorting- Find or make leaves of different colors and different size and types. Laminate them if possible for durability. Ask the children to sort them by color, size, kind, etc. What other ways can they be sorted?

Fall Colors- During a Group Time invite the kids over by saying: Anyone who is wearing red come over... green... etc. Tell the kids this week we are going to be talking all about fall and the beautiful colors of fall. Hold up different fall objects and have the kids name the colors: for example-

Red- apple
Orange- pumpkin
Yellow- corn
Green- squash
Blue- jeans
Purple- long sleeve shirt
Brown- leaf
Black- witch hat

Color Concept Game: (Children listen and follow directions)

Who ever is wearing red, put your hand on your head.
If you have on blue, bend down and touch your shoe.
If it's green that you wear, shake your head and your hair.
If orange is on your clothes, then you have to touch your nose.
Whoever has hair of brown, then lay down on the ground.
Is that purple on your pants, stand up and do a dance.
Have hair of yellow, hug another fellow.
If you are wearing black, then try to scratch your back!

Seasons Discrimination- During group time explain to the kids that fall is also called autumn. Show the children pictures of the Four Seasons (Download the

Four Seasons Cards from the **Theme Enhancements** page) and ask the kids to contribute some ideas about what happens during each season. Discuss some of the common holidays and not so common holidays that are celebrated in the fall.

Math & Number Concepts

Pumpkin Buckets: Set out small buckets with numbers and number words written on them. Provide pumpkin or other fall themed counter for the children to place the correct number of items in each bucket. Small wooden crates would work well for this too!

Art

Fall "Finds" Bracelet

Supplies: Wide masking tape, nature items

Directions: Wrap a piece of tape around child's wrist with the sticky side out, for a bracelet they can stick things to. Go on a fall discovery walk, talk about all the nature/fall items you see. Let the kids pick things up and stick them on their bracelet!

Leaf Rubbings- Provide children with large flat dried leaves, white paper and several large peeled crayons in different fall colors. Demonstrate to them how to place the leaf under the paper and rub the crayon lengthwise over the top of the paper to make a leaf print.

Tissue Trees- Provide each student with a bare tree picture and tissue paper scraps of different fall colors. Demonstrate to them how they can glue tissue paper scraps onto the tree branches. Different techniques them might want to try, crumple the paper into balls and glue down, stick it on the end of a pencil and glue down, or just leave in scrap pieces and glue down.

Easel Trees- At the art easel hang pictures of a tree trunk. Fill paint trays with red, orange, yellow, and green paints. In a spring type clothespin pinch a small piece of a kitchen sponge. Demonstrate to the children how they can dip the sponge in paint and sponge it on their tree branches to make a fall tree. Encourage them to use all the colors. Don't be surprised if they rub the sponge on the paper or if all their leaves are on the ground! That is just fine; remember it's the process not the product!

Nature Collages- Go on a nature hike and have the children collect leaves, acorns, and other nature items. Bring them back to the classroom to use to make collages. Provide them with large sheets of construction paper to glue their nature items on.

Pudding Paint Leaves- Cut large leaf shapes from finger paint paper. Mix up some chocolate and butterscotch pudding. Let the children use the pudding to paint on the leaves.

Sponge Painted Leaves- Hang precut leaf shapes cut from a light brown construction paper on the easel. Provide fall colored tempera paints and small sponges cut from kitchen sponges for painting tools. We use clothespins to pinch the small sponges to make them easier to paint with.

Coffee Filter Leaves- Cut many leaf shapes from coffee filters. Fill small clear cups with fall colored tempera paint that has been thinned a bit. Let the children use eyedroppers to pipe the colored water out and squirt it onto their leaf shapes. Create a classroom tree by sticking a large branch in bucket filled with sand. Hang the leaves on the tree when they are dry.

Leaf Wreaths

Supplies: Leaf shapes printed on different colored construction paper (or use real leaves), paper plates, scissors, glue.

Directions: Let the older kids cut out the leaves from the construction paper (they don't have to be perfect at all) then cut the center out from a paper plate and let kids glue leaves all around edge to make a pretty fall wreath. (opt. add a raffia bow)

Dramatic Play

Farm Fun- Provide Farmer overalls, flannels, and hats for the children to dress up in and plastic rakes and a wheel barrel.

Music & Movement

Leaf Pile Up- Take the children outdoors to rake leaves! Jump in the piles!

Leaf Parachute Toss- Take out a parachute, let the children pile leaves on it and toss them into the air! It is sure to bring lots of smiles!

Leaf Dances- Choose a music selection that is light and reminds you of leaves dancing in the wind. Ask the children to join you in dancing like leaves to the music. Show them how to move gracefully, twirling and blowing around until you all fall down on the ground.

Science & Sensory

Leaf Collections- Place a collection of leaves in the science center along with fall produce, acorns, pinecones and any other items often associated with fall, provide the children with magnifying glasses, small rulers, and paper and crayons for leaf rubbings. Offer "Leaf Observation Books" for the children to draw

leaves and record their observations. Be sure to provide picture labels so the children can copy the names of leaves in their books if they choose.

Corncobs- Fill your sensory table with dried corncobs you can purchase from a farmers market or farm supply store. The children can “pop” off the kernels of corn from the cob and fill your sensory table with dried corn. Then add buckets and scoops for more fun!

Blocks & Building

Add a barn and other farm related equipment, as farming is often a prominent activity in the fall.

Technology

Fall Leaf Memory Match Online-

<http://www.primarygames.com/seasons/fall/games/fallmatch/>

Cooking/Snacks

Make Apple Sauce- Involve the children as much as possible! Invite parents to donate apples, assist children with peeling, coring, and cutting up apples. Cook them in a Crockpot with a little water, sugar and cinnamon. Cool and serve.

Pumpkin Pie Pudding Cups – Layer in a small plastic cup crushed graham crackers, vanilla pudding mixed with a little pumpkin pie spice, and a dollop of whip cream on top!

Bulletin Boards

It's A Fall Full Of Colors- Hang up artwork the children have created during your fall theme. Write each artists name on a leaf shape cut from construction paper.

Jot down your own ideas here...