



What's with Fall?

For those of us who live in this part of the world, the fall season brings many changes. It's a great time of year to help children observe what is going on in the outside world. It is a season of changes. The weather becomes cooler. Days become shorter. We need to wear warmer clothing. Things in nature make major changes. Fruits and vegetables in the garden are ripe and ready to eat. Animals prepare for winter. We get ready for some fall celebrations. For some people it's Halloween and Thanksgiving. Others have fall religious holidays to celebrate.

There are many interesting things you can do with the children this time of year, many of which can be done outdoors. They can learn about the changes in nature with plants, animals, and the weather.

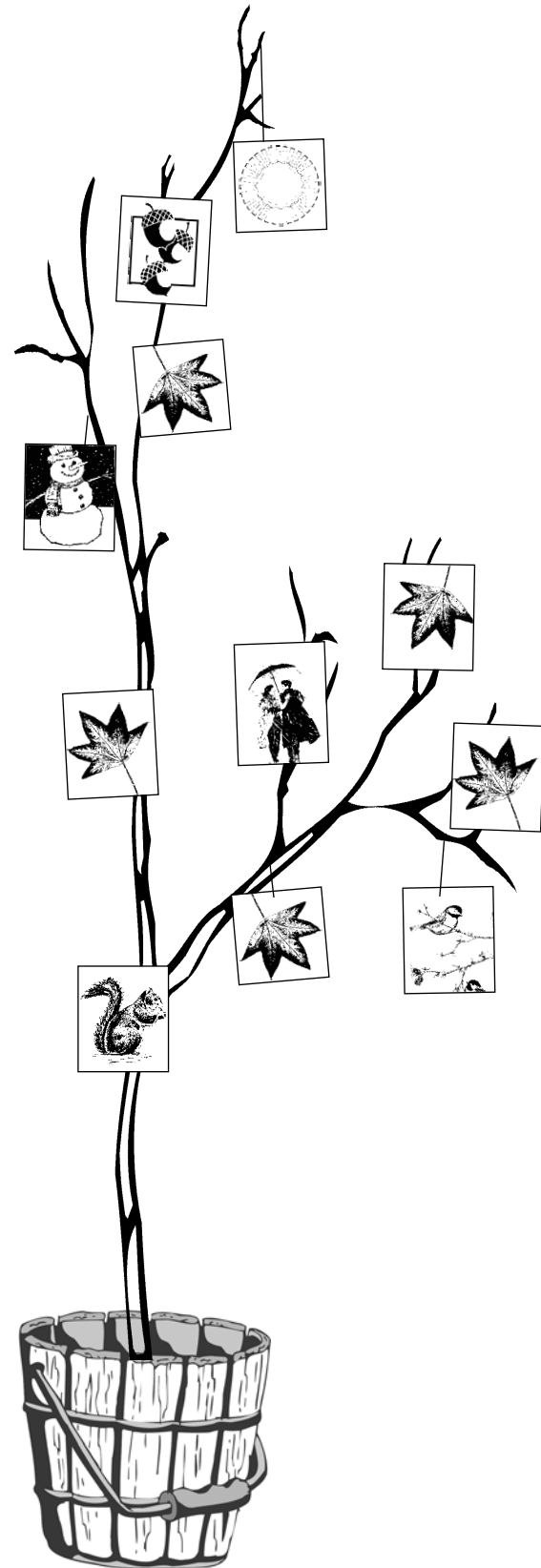


Seasonal Learning Tree

Bring a large tree branch inside and place it in a stone-filled container to keep it upright and in place. You can use it throughout the year to hang things related to each season.

Some examples of ways to use your "learning tree":

- Hang colored leaves the children collect in the fall. They can also cut leaves out of colored paper to hang on your "tree."
- Have the children hang acorns and pinecones they collect on nature walks.
- Put some stuffed animals, such as squirrels, cats, and others that can climb on the branch as a nature lesson.
- Place pictures or drawings of birds we see in winter on the tree branch.
- Make paper snowflakes to hang in winter.
- As a science lesson, have the children look closely at the branch to see the tiny buds called winter buds that are formed. These stay on trees all winter to become new leaves next spring.
- Make some green leaves and leaf buds when spring arrives.
- There are many ways to make paper fruit blossoms for the tree. Place pictures of birds, some bird nests, and insects on the branch. Be sure to include some butterflies. The children can use all kinds of paper and even some play dough to create things that can be found on trees in spring and summer.



FINGER PLAYS

Clocks

Big clocks make a sound like this.
T-i-c-k, t-o-c-k, t-i-c-k, t-o-c-k
(Move hands slowly up and down.)

Small clocks make a sound like this.
Tick, tock, tick, tock
(Move hands faster.)

And very little clocks make a sound like this
(Move hands really fast.)

Tick, tick – tock,
tock – tick, tick – tock, tock

For more Activity ideas, visit us on the web at: betterkidcare.psu.edu or call the telephone help line: 1-800-859-8340.

Here's a finger play that can be used during those times when you want the children to calm down before doing another activity such as reading a story, mealtime, rest time, cleaning up, etc.

I Clap My Hands

I clap my hands.
(Suit actions to words.)

I touch my feet and
I jump up from the ground.

I clap my hands.
I touch my feet and
I turn myself around.

I clap my hands.
I touch my feet and
I sit myself right down.

I clap my hands.
I touch my feet and
I do not make a sound.



Pennsylvania Pathways

Professional Development
for Child Caregivers

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Resources: *Ring A Ring O' Roses — Stories, Games, and Finger Plays for Pre-school Children*. Children's Community Service Department, Flint Public Library, Flint Michigan.

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This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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