

Theme: Fall (Leaves) Week 1

This document contains all of the activities for the theme Fall (Leaves) “for the age group “Big Littles.”

Have fun!

Questions or comments? Please email us at

[playconnecttoday@gmail.com!](mailto:playconnecttoday@gmail.com)

All activities require adult supervision!

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*Clip art images taken from: <https://publicdomainvectors.org> and <https://clipartsearch.freebusinessapps.net/>

*Images used from: unspash.com

Book Suggestion

(We highly recommend checking your local library for this book, however if you cannot find it-please see link on our “Theme extras” web page to purchase if desired or find another book that showcase fall (leaves)! -We suggest using the same book for two weeks as this really helps children gain reading comprehension of the book! **You do not need to read the entire story all at once. Some children have a difficult time concentrating for an entire story, it is totally okay to portion on the story over a few reading sessions!



Song Suggestion:

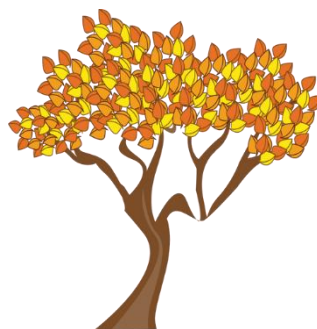
All the leaves are falling down

(Sung to the tune of "London Bridge is Falling Down")

Written by Play Connect LLC

All the leaves are falling down
Falling down, falling down
All the leaves are falling down
Red, yellow, orange and brown

Rake them up into a pile
Into a pile, into a pile
Rake them up into a pile
Then jump in, it will make you smile!



Simple Vocabulary Words

These are optional vocabulary cards to show your child before reading the story to help with understanding. It is also a great idea to point out the words while reading the book!



WIND



KITE



FALL



LEAVES



PINECONE



PUMPKIN



RAKE



ACORN

Art Project:

Fall Tree

What you need for this activity:

- *Blank Tree Outline (option 1)
- *Sticks (Option 2)
- *Non-toxic Squeeze Glue (Option 2)
- *Red, Orange, Yellow, Brown Non-toxic Paint

Directions:

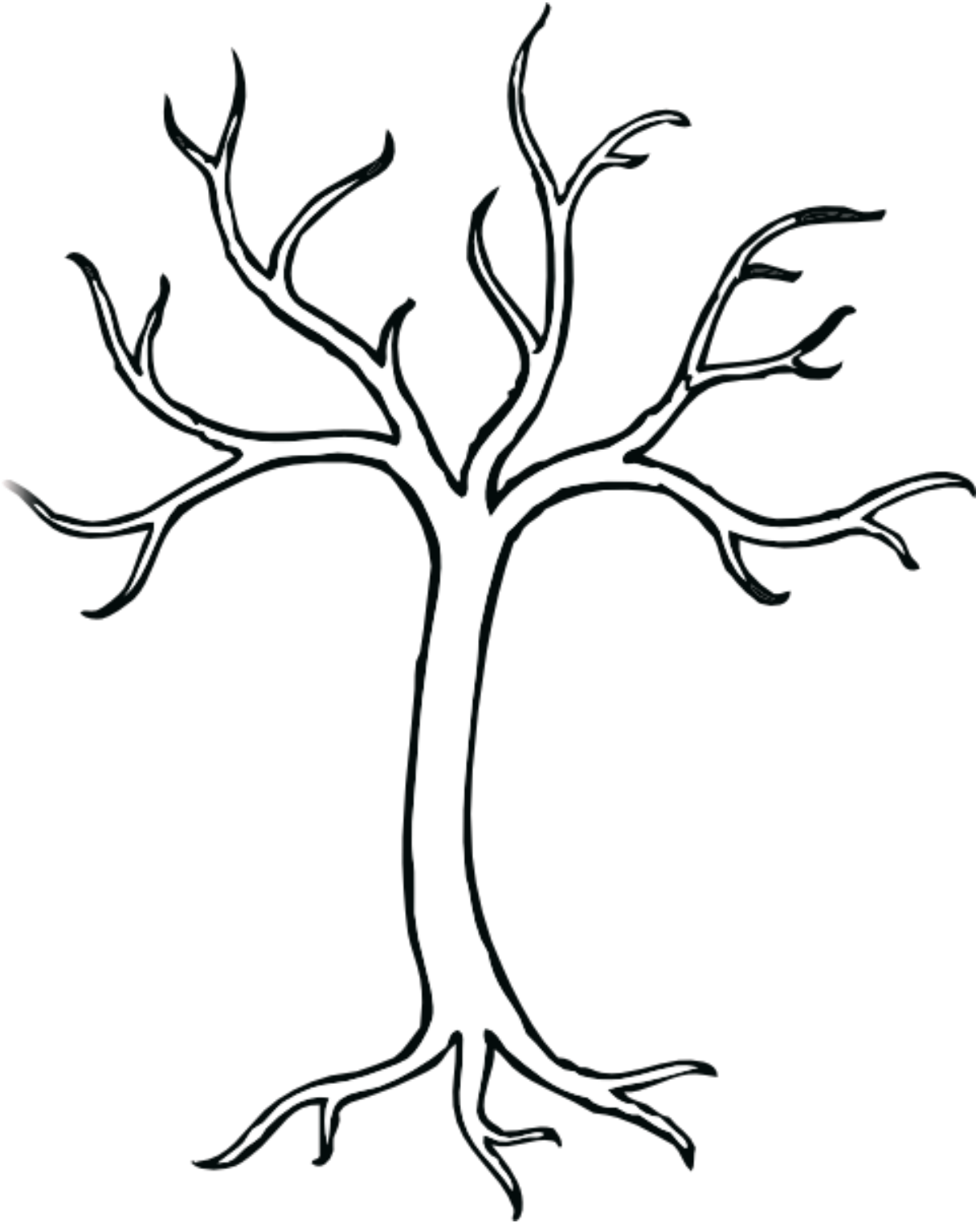
*For this activity your child will create a fall tree using their fingerprints!

Option 1:

- *Print off the blank tree outline. Ask your child to paint the tree brown.
- *Then ask your child(ren) to dip their fingers in the various paint colors to make prints (leaves) all around the tree. Your child may also choose to put prints at the bottom of the tree to represent leaves. **If they do not like getting paint on their hands, they could also use a cotton swab.

Option 2:

- *Gather some sticks and glue them onto a piece of paper in the form of a tree.
- *Once dry ask your child(ren) to dip their fingers in the various paint colors to make prints (leaves) all around the tree. Your child may also choose to put prints at the bottom of the tree to represent leaves. **If they do not like getting paint on their hands, they could also use a cotton swab.



Fine Motor Activity:

Leaf scissor skills

What you need for this activity:

- *Leaves
- *Child-safe scissors
- *Blank Paper
- *Non-toxic squeeze glue

Directions:

*This activity will ask your child to further practice their scissor skills using leaves.

*To start, go out and collect a bunch of leaves, preferably ones that have already fallen to the ground. (This helps because they are no longer super moist). ***Collect extra if you would like to use them for the math activity as well!

*Then: Ask your child to cut the leaves using their scissors.

*To do general practice: have them cut the leaves in whichever way they choose

*To make more difficult: ask them to practice cutting the leaves in half.

*To *really* challenge them: ask them to cut along the veins of the leaves.

*Then: let them make artwork with their leaves. Ask them to glue the leaf pieces onto their paper in whichever way they choose!

Math Activity:

Leaf Patterns

What you need for this activity:

- *Fall leaves (from two different trees if possible) – Option 1
- *Fall Leaves Patterns Page- Option 2

Directions:

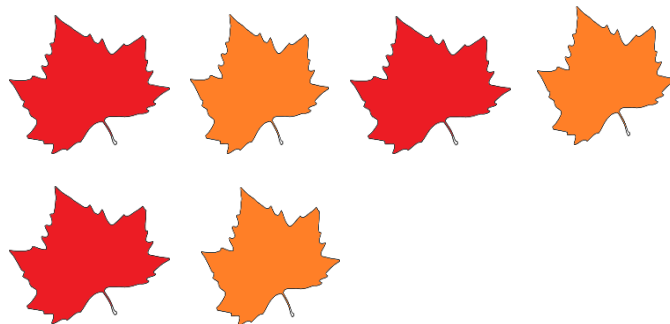
This activity will let your children manipulate leaves in order to create patterns.

*To begin go out and collect a bunch of leaves (extra if you would like to use for the fine motor activity as well) preferably from two different trees. If this is not possible, the leaves could be from the same tree, just different colors.

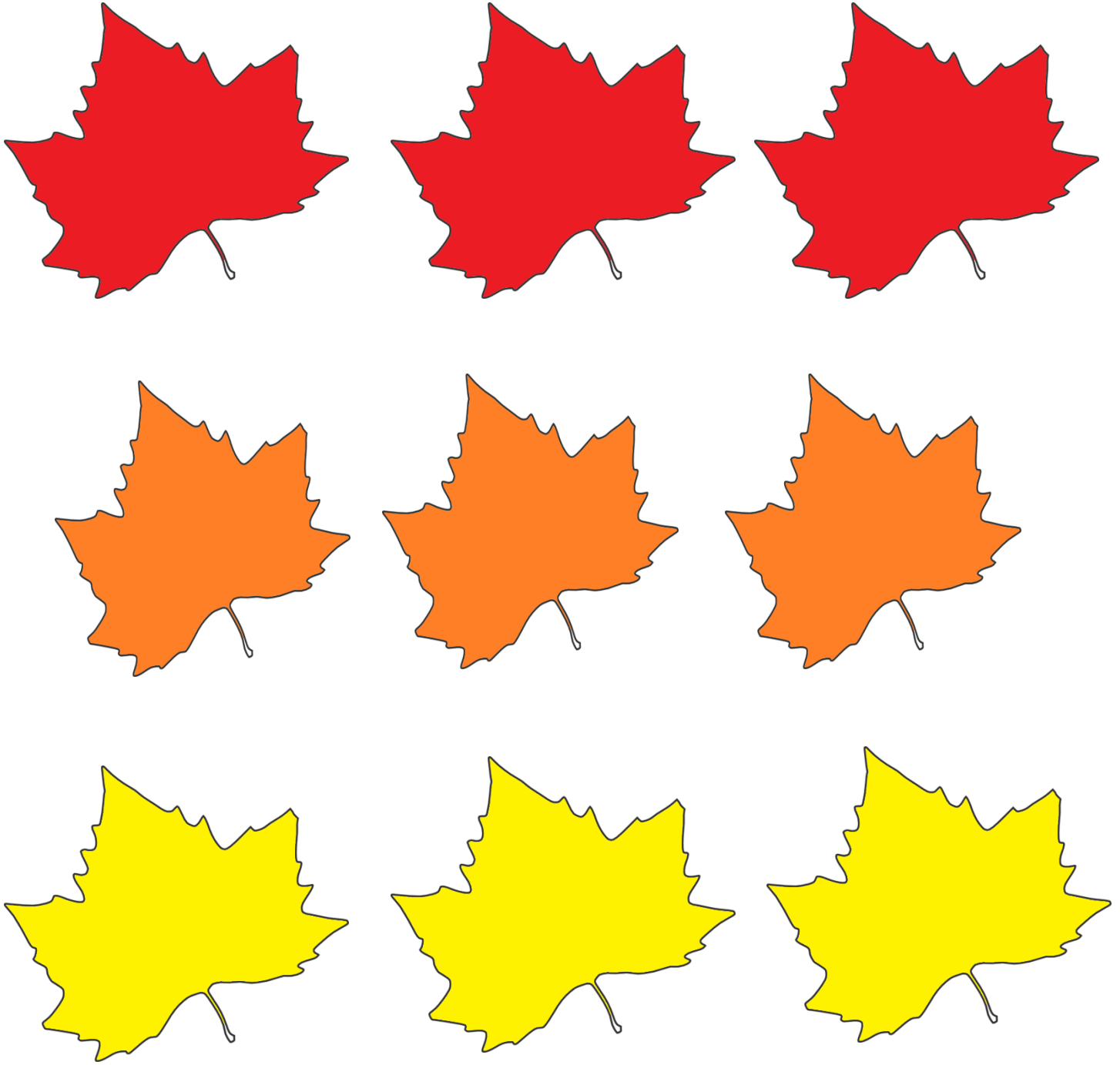
*Then create a pattern with your child (we recommend starting with ABAB – red, orange, red, orange unless your child already understands these).

*After you have created a pattern with them, see if they can duplicate your pattern. (Place the leaves underneath the ones you set down)

For example:



Leaf Pattern Pieces



Language Activity:

Name Wreath

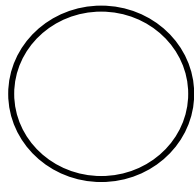
What you need for this activity:

- *Fall Leaves Letters PDF
- *Paper Plate
- *Child-safe scissors
- *Non-toxic glue stick

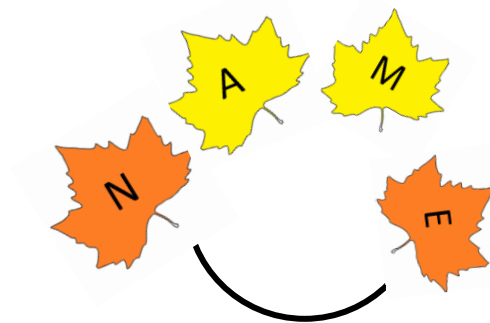
Directions:

*For this activity your child will practice writing their name using leaves.

*To start, take the paper plate and cut out the center of it. If you do not have a paper plate, you could also cut a large circle out of construction paper and then cut out a circle in the middle so you have a ring.



Then, ask your child to find the letters in their name, cut them out and glue them onto the ring to create a name wreath! **Optionally you may also gather fall leaves and write the letters of their name on them!



Science Activity: (lengthy)

Changing Leaf Colors

What you need for this activity:

- *A leaf that is still green (but will change color) such as Maple or Birch
- *Rubbing alcohol (ADULT USE ONLY)
- *Hot water (ADULT USE ONLY)
- *Glass jar (careful use)
- *Separate container (big enough for the glass jar)
- *A strip of a white coffee filter
- **Optional: leaf experiment observation sheet (see below)

Directions:

*For this science activity your child(ren) will learn about why leaves change colors.

**This activity will require plenty of adult supervision!

*To begin: Gather some leaves (from the same tree) with your children). The leaves should be from a tree whose leaves change colors such as a maple BUT the leaves you gather must still be green.

*Then: Ask your child(ren) to rip up the leaves into small pieces and place them in the jar.

ADULT TIME

*Pour rubbing alcohol into the jar until it reaches the halfway point.

*Mash up the leaves using a spoon- REALLY mash them

- *Pour hot water into the separate container and place the jar inside it, standing up
- *Let it sit for an hour
- *Come back and check the jar. Ask your child(ren) what they observe.
- *Then: place the strip of coffee filter into the jar – leaving it in overnight if possible.
- *There should be new colors on the filter! (They may be very light)

Why does this happen? The leaves contain something called chlorophyll (basically plant food). As the season changes and it gets colder outside, the chlorophyll starts to break down. This allows the colors that have always been inside of the leaf to show through!

Our chlorophyll experiment!

We used _____ leaves that looked like this!

Draw or glue image of the leaf you used here

Then we ripped up the leaves and put them in a jar! We covered them with rubbing alcohol. Here's what it looked like



We put the jar in hot water and waited and waited and the alcohol turned green from the chlorophyll!



Finally, we put a coffee filter strip in and this happened! The colors were there all along!



