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Preschool Theme Kits

AUTUMN/HARVEST



BOX CONTENTS

BOOKS

Apple Pie Tree

Zoe Hall

Possum's Harvest Moon

Anne Hunter

It's Fall

Linda Glaser

Henry and Mudge Under the Yellow Moon

Cynthia Rylant

Blueberries for Sal (Book with CD)

Robert McCloskey

Why Do Leaves Change Color?

Betsy Maestro

Plumply Dumpy Pumpkin

Mary Serfozo

Apples and Pumpkins

Anne Rockwell

The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry and the Big Hungry Bear

Don Wood

DVD

Vrrrooommm! #3 Apple Farming for Kids

TOY

Five Fat Turkeys and Apple Tree felt pieces

ADULT RESOURCES

Everything for Fall : a Complete Activity Guide for Teachers of Young Children
Edited by Kathy Charmer

ACTIVITY NOTEBOOK

BEYOND THE KITS STORYTIME HANDBOOK

Welcome to the *Autumn/Harvest* Theme Kit. Our target age group is 2 to 5 year olds but we have included at least one board book for babies to use. All these books read aloud well, and there are activities, finger plays, and teacher guides to help you. Also, take a look at the general information sheet on the inside cover of this notebook. ENJOY!

FOR YOU: a copy of these activities is available in back of this notebook.

Related Activities

-Fun and Games-

GATHERING LEAVES *

Read **Why Do Leaves Change Color?** and **The Four Seasons : Fall** before taking a walk outside to gather leaves. Discuss the kinds of leaves you find. On the walk have the children gather leaves that have fallen and challenge them to match a leaf to the tree it has fallen from.

Extension: Let the children collect a number of leaves. Make leaf rubbings by placing different types of leaves under paper and rub over them with the side of a crayon. Choose crayons in fall colors.

Directions for leaf rubbings and pressed leaves are in the back of **Why Do Leaves Change Color?**

Make a fall bouquet from interesting grasses, collected leaves, pods, etc.

SPLATTER PAINTING *

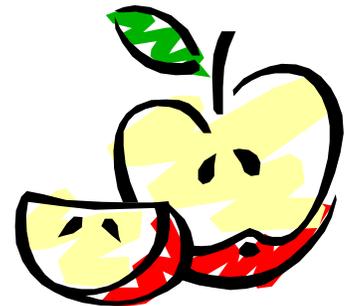
Use the rain to help create a splatter painting. Each child can sprinkle dry tempera paint or use washable markers on a sheet of stiff paper. Choose several colors for the best effect. Carefully lay the pictures outside so that the rain can mix with the paint. If possible, place them where the children can watch the pictures change, while staying dry.

**Activities courtesy of the Early Childhood Office of the Seattle Public Library.*

GUESS WHAT'S MISSING*

Fall is a great time to collect things: leaves, seeds, nuts, gourds, mini pumpkins, and ears of dried corn. Place several of these on a tray or box top and name them, as you point. Cover the tray and remove one of the items while the children close their eyes. Let the children guess what's missing. They can take turns taking away items, too.

Variation: Place a variety of apples (yellow, green, red), an apple leaf, paper worm and small branch on a tray. Play Guess What's Missing as above.



APPLE PRINTING

Cut apples in half vertically or horizontally. Put out pie plates with red, yellow and/or green paint. Let the children use the apple halves as stampers, on plain or brown paper. *Hint:* If you pour a little paint on a sponge, it can be neater.

THE APPLE TREE

Full body stretch, or use with felt pieces included in this kit.

Way up high in the apple tree
Stretch with hands high over head
Two little apples smiled at me.
Make fists.
I shook that tree as hard as I could.
Pretend to shake tree trunk
Down fell the apples,
Drop fists down to floor.
Mmmmm they were good!
Rub tummy- yummm.

TEN LITTLE APPLES

Put apple felt pieces on the tree as you sing, to tune of Ten Little Indians.

One little, two little, three little apples.
Four little, five little, six little apples.
Seven little, eight little, nine little apples
Ten little apples on the tree.

Ten little, nine little, eight little apples
Etc.

FALL FIELD TRIPS

There are a number of apple orchards and pumpkin farms in our area. Watch the video Vrrrooommm! Apple Farming for Kids and make plans to take the children to enjoy the sights and smells of our local harvest.

GETTING READY FOR WINTER

After reading **Possum's Harvest Moon** and/or **Blueberries for Sal** ask the children, "How do we get ready for winter?" You may want to make a classroom book (see instructions about making blank books in **Everything for Fall**, p. 121 and 260) showing harvesting and winter preparations.

ADULT RESOURCES

Everything for Fall is full of easy seasonal activities, art projects, and every month ends with a chapter of cooking! Make Baby Apple Pies (p. 81), Cinnamon Roll-up (p. 164), and Cinnamon Cider Drink (p. 244). There are math and science activities, and every month has a list of wonderful children's books to read, with ideas for follow-up discussions.

Autumn/Harvest Theme Kit

Questions or Suggestions:

Call the Youth Services Dept.
at (360) 384-3150

-Fingerplays and Action Rhymes-

FALLING LEAVES

Traditional, fingerplay or full body rhyme.

Little leaves fall gently down
Red and yellow
Orange and brown
Whirling, whirling round and round
Falling to the ground.



PUMPKIN SONG

Sing to tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb. Suit actions to words.

We are pumpkins big and round
Big and round, big and round
We are pumpkins big and round
Sitting on the ground.
See our great big shining eyes,
Shining eyes, shining eyes.
See our great big shining eyes,
Looking all around.
See our great big laughing mouths,
Laughing mouths, laughing mouths.
See our great big laughing mouths
Smiling right at you.

Extension: *make paper pumpkins out of orange paper, with yellow eyes and mouths. Have children stand in a row holding their pumpkins, and point to eyes and mouths.*

MR TURKEY AND MR DUCK

From www.nancymusic.com. Sing to tune of Yankee Doodle.

Mr. Turkey went out one day
In bright sunny weather.
He met Mr. Duck along the way
They stopped to talk together.
Gobble, gobble, gobble
Quack, quack, quack.
Gobble, gobble, gobble
Quack, quack, quack.
And then they both went back.
Quack!
Variations: Children can play the parts of Mr. Turkey and Mr. Duck, taking turns going through the motions of quacking and gobbling.

*Raise hands, and gently shift
Downward, from side to side*

*Roll hands
Lower hands to floor.*

FIVE FAT TURKEYS

Use with felt pieces in this kit, or do as a fingerplay.

Five fat turkeys are we.
We spent the night in a tree.
When the cook came around
One couldn't be found.
And that's why we're here you see,
see, see.
And that's why we're here you see!
Next verse: Four fat turkeys are we, etc, until "none could be found".

Variation for Thanksgiving:
Five fat turkeys are we.
We spent the night in a tree.
It sure does pay on Thanksgiving day
To sleep in the tallest tree!



*Begin with both hands behind back.
Bring one out as Mr. Turkey.
Other hand comes out for Mr. Duck.
Hands 'face' each other
Mr. Turkey bows and gobbles
Mr. Duck bows and quacks
Mr. Turkey
Mr. Duck
Hands return behind back*

How You Can Help

- Use and return kits promptly so that they are available for others.
- Please check box contents before returning.
- Do not use the book drop. Please return kits inside an open library.