



SCHOOL AGE

Hello, Fall!

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.” ~Albert Camus



Tree Collage

Talk to you school-ager about the changes that are happening outside. The air is cooler, the leaves are changing colors, the garden is being harvested, and there are less bugs in the air. YES! Continue the conversation about what differences he sees in the trees in the yard. Have him reflect back to what he remembers about the trees last winter, spring, and summer. And now what does he see in the fall? Create a tree for each season of the year: spring, summer, fall, winter. This activity will also require materials gathered from the environment.

Rainy Day Activities

Discuss the cycle of water and different concepts that highlight water in many forms. This is a great activity for a rainy day in the fall. At some time or another your children will ask you what makes rain. Briefly explain the water cycle in language that they will understand. You can demonstrate it too:

1. In the bathroom, point out the steam that evaporates from the bath into the air and then condenses on the cold tiles or mirror. Explain the similarities with water from the sea that evaporates into the air, cools as it rises, condenses, and precipitates in the form of rain, hail, or snow.
2. Have your child watch as you hold a glass over the spout of a boiling kettle—carefully so you do not scald yourself! Explain how the steam evaporates and condenses on the cold glass and forms water droplets again.
3. Make a terrarium: Cut a large clear plastic bottle in half and plant some small plants or bean seeds in damp soil in the bottom of the bottle. Then put the two halves back together and seal it with thick tape. Seal the lid and observe how the moisture condenses on the sides of the bottle, trickles back into the soil, and recycles.
4. Other changes made to water—freezing: Freeze juice to demonstrate how water turns to solid when cooled. You could make ice lollies to enjoy. Observe how they melt and become liquid again when removed from the freezer.

*Activities should be done under the supervision of an adult or older sibling.



Please see below for some additional activities that you could try with your child.



Heat

Make popcorn to demonstrate that heat causes expansion. The corn pops out of its skin!

Sing *I'm a Little Popcorn* (tune of *I'm a Little Teapot*)

I'm a little popcorn in a pot (huddle in a ball)
Heat me up and watch me pop (jump up)
When I am all white, I am done
Popping corn is lots of fun (jump around)

Collecting Leaves

Go for a nature walk and collect an interesting assortment of leaves. Let your child place them in a zipper-seal bag to keep them safe while you are out. Try to find a variety of different shapes and sizes, simple and compound leaves. Thin, flattish leaves are best for this project, rather than thick, juicy leaves!

Leaves that have fallen and partially dried out will iron best. Alternatively, use pressed leaves for this project. This project needs plenty of adult help, but your child will be delighted with the end-product.

You will need:

- A variety of different shaped leaves
- Two equal sized twigs
- Raffia, ribbon, fishing line, string, or thread (we used raffia)
- A roll of wax paper
- Scissors
- Punch
- Warm iron and ironing board **to be used by ADULTS ONLY**

Method:

1. Make a cross with the two twigs and tie them together at the center.
2. Arrange a few leaves at a time on the wax paper and cover it with another piece of wax paper.
3. Iron the wax paper so that the wax melts and the two layers stick together with the leaves in-between.
4. Let your child cut around the leaf shapes leaving a border of wax paper.
5. Punch a hole in the paper around each leaf. Help your child insert the raffia, ribbon, thread, or fishing line and tie the ends.
6. Hang your leaves from the twigs and then suspend your mobile in a well-lit position so that the light will catch it.

Variation:

Add pressed flowers, berry clusters, or small cones to your fall leaf mobile.

Books



Little Acorn
by Igloo Books



We're Going on a Leaf Hunt
by Steve Metzger
and Miki Sakamoto