

Theme:

Fall (Leaves)

Week 2

This document contains all of the activities for the theme Fall (Leaves) “for the age group “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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*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:

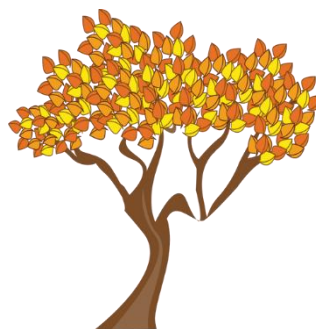
All the leaves are falling down

(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: Leaf Stamping

What you need for this activity:

- *Leaves from various trees
- *Non-toxic Paint
- *Paintbrushes
- *Construction Paper (white works best for this)
- *Coloring Utensil

Directions:

- *For this activity your child(ren) will use leaves as stamps to create a fall image.
- *To begin, gather leaves with your child, it will work best if the leaves are not super crunchy (or they will break too easily).
- *Next, in the middle of the construction paper, write “Happy Fall” (if your child is able to trace the letters then write them in dashed print).
- *Then ask your child(ren) to choose a leaf and paint it on ONE side. They may choose to use one of more colors.
- *Finally, FIRMLY press the leaf down on the paper around the words. Keep doing this until the page has multiple fall leaves on it!

Fine Motor Activity:

Picking up Leaves

What you need for this activity:

- *Leaves
- *Large tweezers OR tongs
- *Egg carton or different bins (optional)

Directions:

*This activity will ask your child pick up leaves using tongs or large tweezers (see theme extras to pick up a pair). While doing so, your child will work on their fine motor, pincer muscles which will help them be able to properly grip a pencil.

*You may choose to do this activity outside or inside (though if it is a windy day we recommend inside).

*Find some fall leaves with your child and then:

- 1) Simply ask them to pick them up and put them in a pile (or carton/bin) using the tweezers or tongs OR
- 2) Use the tweezers/tongs to place one leaf in each “egg spot” in an egg carton OR
- 3) If they are able to sort them by color (again moving with tweezers or tongs) into different bins (ex. red, yellow, orange).

Math Activity:

Color focus: Orange

What you need for this activity:

- *Your child
- *Space to move
- *When I see Page
- *Orange coloring utensil
- *Camera (optional)

Directions:

This activity will let your children focus on the color orange. We choose one color at a time because each color has so many shades and can be seen in so many places. This truly helps children develop a great understanding of each individual color.

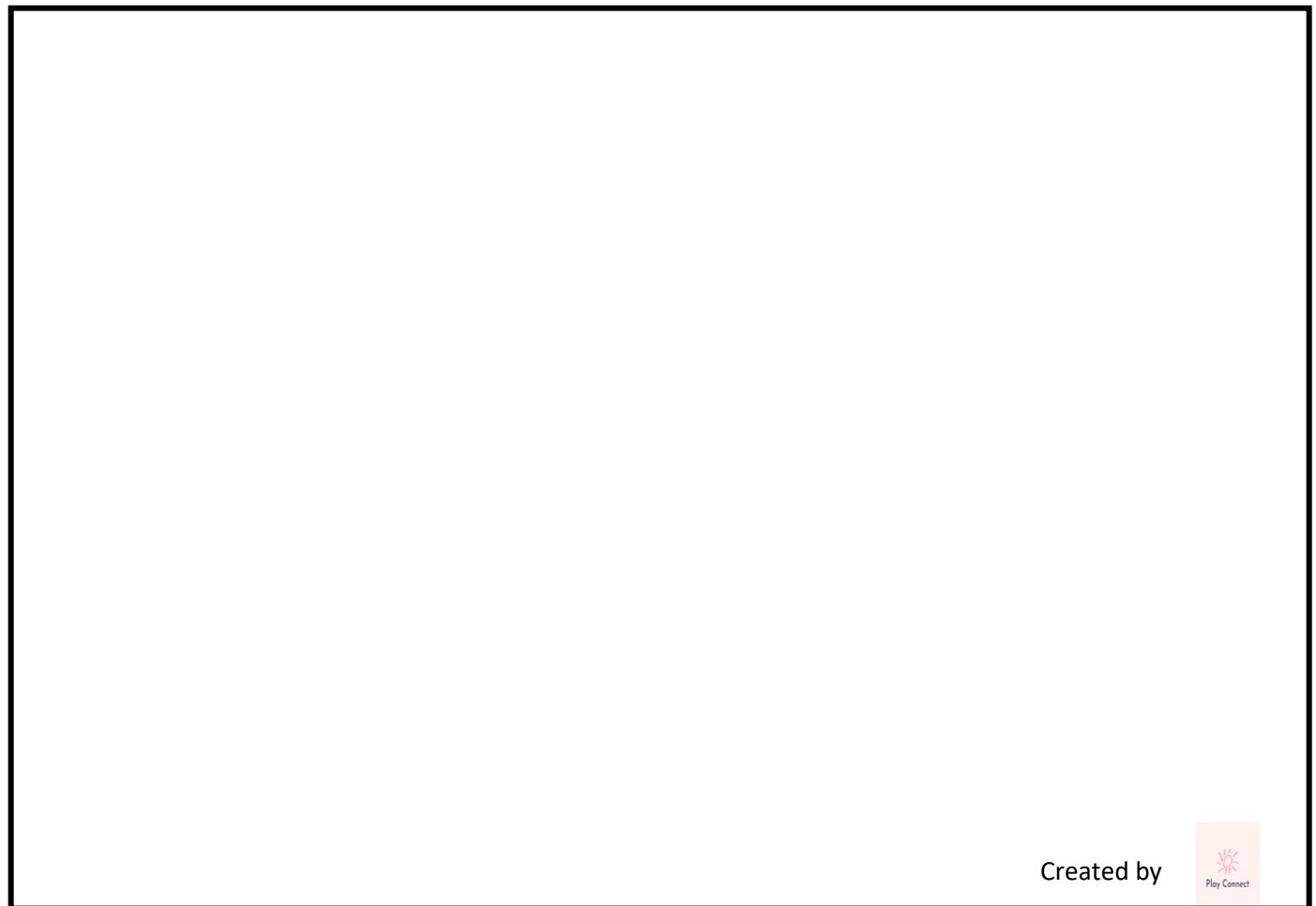
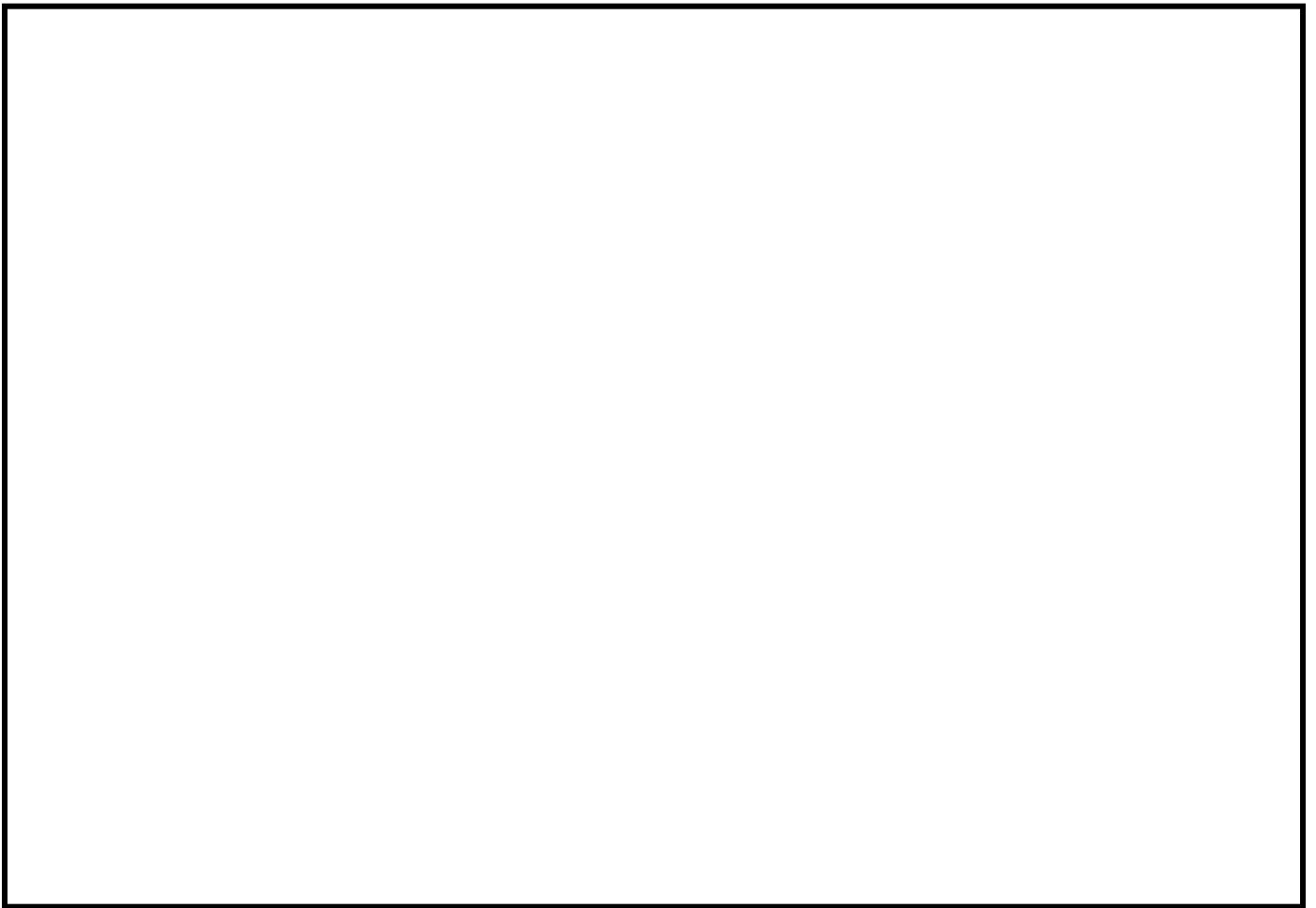
*To begin, show your color something that is the color orange and ask “what color is this?” If they already know it’s orange – great! If not tell them that it is.

*Then it’s time to get moving! Walk around with them (and the orange object) and have them find more items that are orange. Optionally you can take pictures of these and create a “orange items” photo album (see below).

*To end the activity, ask your child to draw something orange on the “When I See Orange” page. Ask them about their drawing and write down what they tell you.

WHEN I SEE ORANGE...

My album of the color ORANGE



Language Activity: Fall Leaf Repetition Book

What you need for this activity:

- *Fall Leaf Repetition Book pages
- *Coloring utensils

Directions:

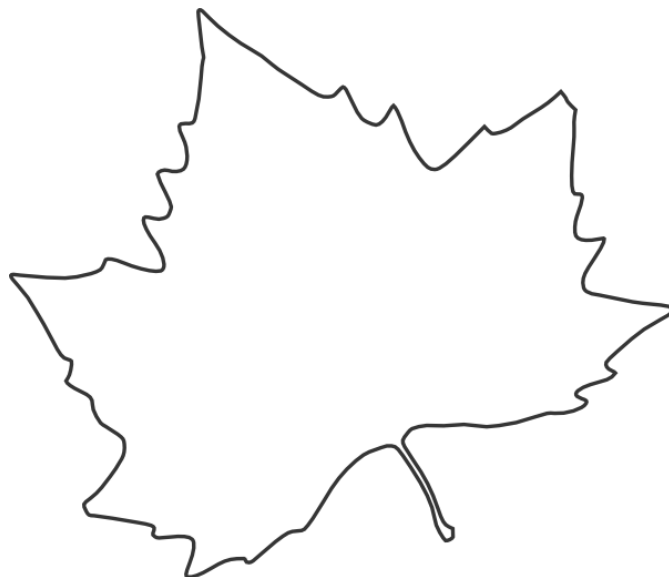
*For this activity your child will practice create a repetitive book. This repetitive nature allows the child to really learn this book and be able to “read” it to you. They will also have the chance to practice their fine motor skills as they color in leaves.

MY LEAF BOOK

WHILE IM WALKING IN THE
FALL I MIGHT SEE A **RED** LEAF!



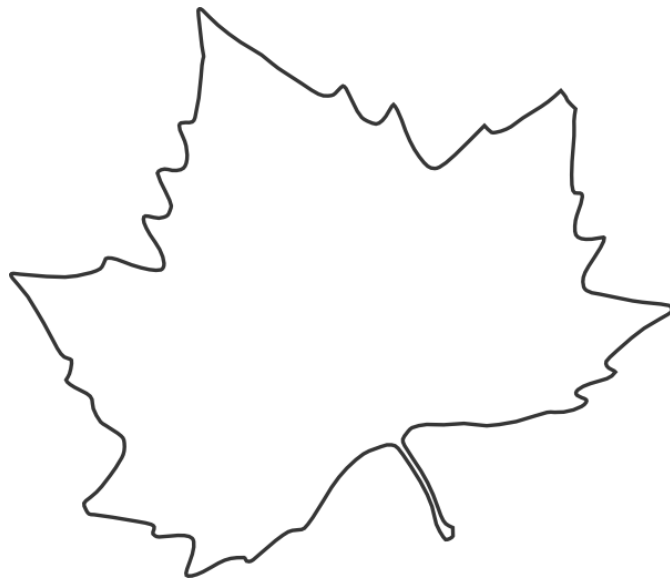
WHILE WALKING IN THE FALL I
MIGHT SEE AN **ORANGE** LEAF!



WHILE WALKING IN THE FALL I
MIGHT SEE A **YELLOW** LEAF!



IF I'M REALLY LUCKY WHILE
WALKING IN THE FALL I MIGHT
EVEN SEE A MAPLE LEAF THAT
IS: **RED**, **ORANGE**, and **YELLOW!**



Science Activity:

Why do leaves fall?

What you need for this activity:

- *Outdoors by trees
- *Optional: paper and pencil and/or dry erase board with markers
- *Optional: chalk

Directions:

*For this science activity your child(ren) will learn about why leaves fall off of the trees.

*To begin, if possible, take your child(ren) for a walk. While you are walking, examine the trees. Are there still leaves on all of them? Are there leaves on the ground? What colors do the leaves have (if you did the experiment last week, you can remind them why/how the leaves change colors).

*Ask them why they think the leaves don't stay on the tree all year long.

**At this point you could write down their ideas

*Then pick up a leaf from the ground, and ask your child to *really* observe it and tell you what they see. Do they notice the stem? The veins in the leaf?

*Ask what they think the veins do. **The simple answer is that the veins carry water that the tree has sucked up through its roots into the leaves. The leaves then use that water to make "food" for the tree – again the veins transport it so the tree can "eat."

*****Now if you would like to do an example activity of the next portion:**

Option 1 (a bit more complex)

*Take some ribbon and attach it to a piece of paper (preferably in the shape of a leaf but this is not absolutely necessary).

*Ask your child to (or you can as well) make a tiny cut in the ribbon (not all the way through yet). Then another cut and another until finally you have cut it all the way. What happens? The leaf falls to the ground!

*When it starts getting cold outside the leaves know that their time is near, as temperatures drop, tiny ridges are made at the stem of each leaf (the part that connects it to the tree). These little ridges act like the scissors you used to make the connection less and less strong between the leaf and the tree. Eventually the tree pushes them off.

So why can't trees keep their leaves all year round? In the cold winter months, trees know they won't have enough water to keep their leaves and themselves alive so they let them go. If they did not do this, the tree itself would not survive the winter.

Option 2

Draw a large circle (that can fit all of the people participating) with some chalk.

Ask one person to stand in the middle of the circle (they represent the tree)

Everyone else begins by standing close to the "tree."

The tree says "oh it's getting colder." Everyone surrounding the tree takes a small step back. Keep repeating this until someone steps out of the circle. Then "My leaves are falling!" Continue until all of the leaves have "fallen."

Explain that as it gets colder the leaves slowly break their connection to the tree. Once they have broken it completely, they fall down! Trees need their leaves to fall so that they can keep as many nutrients (tree food) as possible so they can make it when it gets really cold out!

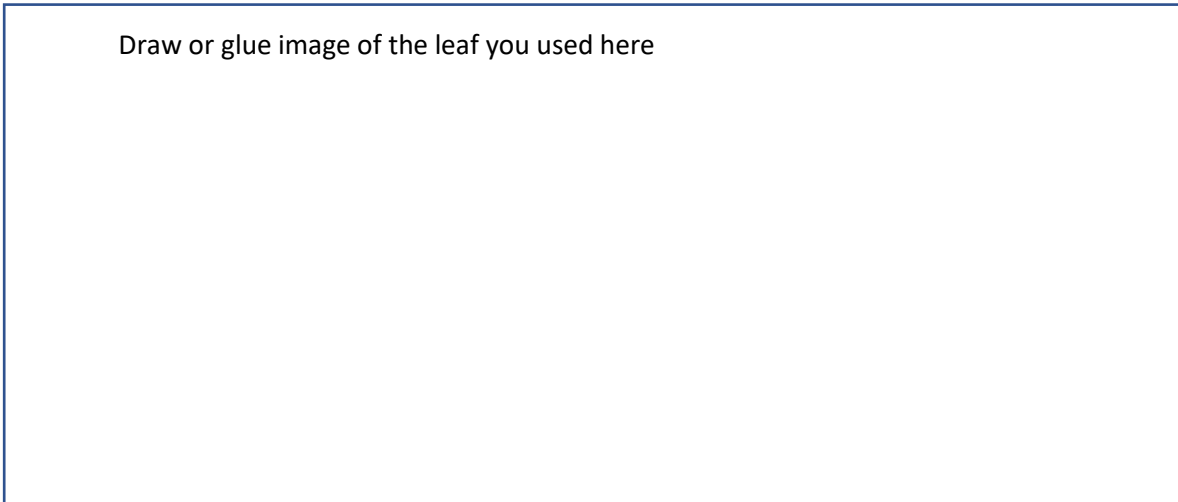
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Our chlorophyll experiment!

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!



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