



11 Fall Activities for Preschoolers

1. The Apple Tree

Away up high in an apple tree.

(Point up.)

Two red apples smiled at me.

(Form circles with fingers.)

I shook that tree as hard as I could.

(Pretend to shake a tree.)

Down came those apples.

And mmmmmmm, were they good!

(Rub tummy.)

2. Leaf Graph

Graph leaves that children collect outdoors by color and/or type. Each child collects one leaf to graph. Leaves from a single tree can also be graphed when the leaves are changing from green to another color. Some children might collect green leaves, some might collect red, and others might collect leaves that are two-toned.

3. Dried Apple Rings

Peel, core, and cut apples into chip-sized circles. Dip the circles in fresh lemon juice. Use a wire cutter to cut a white-coated clothes hanger. Decorate the hanger with some apples made out of craft paper and add the apple rings. (Don't let the apple slices touch each other.) Hang the apples in a dry, airy spot and let them dry for one to two weeks. Tip: Turn the apples every day.

4. Make Your Own Applesauce

Applesauce is easy to make. Five pounds of apples make about two quarts of applesauce. Peel, core, and slice apples into quarters. Put in a pot and partially cover with water. Boil apples until they are soft. Let children use a potato masher to mash the apples to make applesauce. Add sugar and cinnamon to taste.

5. Leaf Drawing

Go on a leaf hunt around the school grounds to collect leaves. Children study the leaves with magnifying glasses, and draw pictures of different leaves with a fine-point black ink pen. Choose one leaf drawing from each child, scan it, enlarge it on the computer, and print them out on white art paper. The

children decorate the leaf copies with different materials: watercolor paints, tempera paints, fine point colored pens, markers, and colored pencils.

6. Leaf Patterns

Use a leaf craft puncher to cut out leaves from construction paper. Children glue the cutouts on a paper pattern strip. You can do AB, AABB, ABC, ABB, AAB, etc.

7. Tree Rubbing

Children work in pairs. One partner holds a piece of paper against a tree while the other child makes a tree bark rubbing with the side of a crayon. Then the partners switch roles so that each child has a turn to make a tree rubbing.

8. Nature Walk

Go on a nature walk to find things such as sticks, leaves, acorns, pebbles, bird eggs, etc. Children mark a checklist when they find each item. The children are also given a small ziplock bag to collect the small items they find.

9. 3-D Trees

Children make trees with paper towel rolls and red, yellow, green, brown, and orange construction paper.

10. Fingerprint Fall Trees

A child dips a finger into brown paint. Have her press her finger repeatedly onto the paper, making a tree trunk line. She can make the trunk as thick or as thin as she likes. Repeat step two for the branches, making thinner lines coming out of the trunk.

Add leaves by asking children to choose fall-inspired leaf colors. Have them dip a finger into the colors one at a time, and then press the finger onto the paper (on the branches). Try creating patterns with the colors on the branches.

11. Apple Prints

Cut a green, yellow, and red apple in half sideways to reveal the star inside. Have a tray of green, yellow, and red paint for dipping. Each child has a large sheet of paper and is encouraged to dip and print with the apple halves.