

## Getting Ready for Week

### Suggested Books:

Why do Leaves Change Color? By Betsy Maestro  
 It's Fall, by Linda Glaser  
 How do You Know It's Fall? By Allan Fowler  
 Fall is Hear! I Love It! By Elaine W. Good  
 Apples and Pumpkins, by Anne Rockwell  
 For the Love of Autumn, by Patricia Polacco  
 Autumn, by Gerda Muller  
 Autumn: An Alphabet Acrostic, by Steven Schnur  
 T is for Touchdown: A Football Alphabet, by Brad Herzon  
 The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle  
 From Caterpillar to Butterfly, by Deborah Heiligman

### Songs and Fingerplays:

#### Two Little Apples

Way up high in the apple tree (extend arms above head)

Two little apples smiled at me (smile and point to mouth)

I shook that tree as hard as I could (circle hands around a "trunk" and shake)

Down came the apples (hands in the air, falling)

Mmmmm, were they good! (rub tummy)

#### Mr. Squirrel

Who's that scampering up the tree

Carrying acorns... 1, 2, 3?

It's Mr. Squirrel with a tail so furry.

He's ready for winter, so don't you worry!

#### Leaves are Twirling (Frere Jacques)

Leaves are falling

Leaves are falling

All around

All around

They are falling softly

Very, very softly

To the ground

To the ground.

#### Autumn Winds (Ring around the Rosie)

Autumn winds begin to blow

Colored leaves fall fast and slow

Whirling

Twirling

They all fall down!

(cut out different colored leaves –sway like a tree and drop the leaves)

### Materials to Gather:

#### Dramatic Play:

Set out sweaters, coats, and blankets for the dolls

#### Blocks:

Add a set of farm animals to the blocks area. Suggest through words or pictures that the child should build a barn for the animals out of blocks, to give them some protection from the colder weather.

#### Music:

Music for the Nursery, from Columbia River Baby Genius The Four Seasons with Music CD from Pacific Entertainment

Sing along with Elmo and Friends, Autumn, from Just Me Music

#### Projects:

1. Cut a large upper and lower case letter F from red construction paper, and mount to the wall near your calendar. Write flashcards for the vocabulary words. Keep them near your calendar. If you are teaching reading using the sight-word method, make cards large. If you just focusing on vocabulary, the words can be small and are for your benefit, to remind you what words you are teaching this week.
2. You can write the words for the songs and fingerplays on flashcards, too, but it is better if you can memorize them.
3. Make an autumn lotto game. Buy an inexpensive pack of autumn stickers – make sure there are many copies of the same picture. Create game boards – cut squares of posterboard and divide them into a grid pattern. Do six squares – two rows of three – for younger children (2 yrs), nine to 12 squares for older children. Attach one set of stickers to the playing boards in random patterns. Make playing cards – cut more posterboard into the same size squares as the patterns you

- drew. Attach a second set of stickers to the playing cards. To play – each player takes a playing card. Child draws a card. Does it match a square on his board? If so, then he puts it on top of the square. If not, he puts it back in the pile. Then it is your turn. This simple game teaches matching, one-to-one correspondence, and taking turns.
4. Splatter paint. Construction paper, old toothbrush, piece of screening attached to a wooden frame, tempera paint, smock or apron to protect clothes, newspaper to cover table. Leaves gathered from nature walk.
  5. Crayon rubbings: leaves, single and double-sided tape, construction paper, crayons
  6. Large magnifying glass. Items gathered from nature walk- leaves, nuts, etc.
  7. Cardboard (not plastic) egg carton, paint, pipe cleaners, wiggly eyes, etc.
  8. Large sheet of paper, brown crayon, glue, dried grasses, nuts, twigs, tempera paint in autumn colors
  9. Alike, Same, Different game. Make sets of cards, using stickers. A set of leaves, trees, birds, squirrels, chipmunks, fall fruits, vegetables, etc. put three cards on the table – two leaves and a fruit. Which one is different? Are the leaves alike (both leaves) or the same (identical picture). Repeat play. This game teaches matching, attention to detail, discernment, and builds vocabulary.
  10. Two apples, paper, paint, smock, newspaper
  11. Fall leaves mobile: leaf shapes cut from construction paper, 9 inch brown construction paper circles, children's scissors, glue
  12. Red, yellow, green home-made playdough, apple cookie cutters, pipe cleaners
  13. Winter preparation clean-up: soap and water, towels. Wash screens or other items.
  14. Corn Cob prints. Ears of corn, paper, tempera paints in autumn colors, smocks, newspaper, etc.
  15. Clear contact paper, colored tissue paper in autumn colors: reds, yellow, orange, green, brown. Scissors, tape.
  16. Nuts, seeds, pinecones, leaves, apples for counting
  17. Arrange to visit an apple orchard, pick apples
  18. Small pumpkin, washable markers, decorations: eye glasses, hat or scarf, wig, etc.
- How to teach counting:**  
If you are going to teach your child to count to three, you should have six items to count, not three! Start with six pennies, or six acorns – six anything's. Set one on the table, and teach child to say "one". Leave that one item there, and then put two of the same item in a second row, and teach "two". Then put three items in a third row and teach "three". Child should learn that three means "quantity" and is not just another name. If you teach counting to three with just three items, and you count from left to right, the child may be confused. Why is the apple on the left "one" but the apple on the right is "three"? They look the same. If you mix the apples up, which one is three? Have your child count spoons when you set the table, steps he takes to walk to the car, the number of times you pull a brush through his hair, the number of buttons on his shirt. There are many opportunities to count! Counting teaches a "one- to – one correspondence", which is a major important pre-math concept! Until a child understands the concept of "one", he cannot learn to add.

**F is for Fall: Monday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity: Practice vocabulary words: fall, autumn, hibernate, harvest, temperature, warm, cool, frost, thermometer, tree, leaves, evergreen, red, orange, yellow, brown, green, and caterpillar. Review "Two Little Apples" (taught during A week).
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Play autumn lotto.
8:15	Free Play: Set out new props for this theme, and put away some of the past items. Rotating your toys keeps them fresh and interesting, and makes it easier for your youngster to pick up his mess.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time. Nature Walk. Look for changes in the season. Can your child find: fallen or brightly colored leaves, acorns, milkweed pods, nuts, caterpillars, birds flying south, squirrels with nuts. Bring back colored leaves for future art projects.
11:15	Project: Splatter paint. Lay a leaf the child found on a sheet of construction paper. Splatter paint over the paper using a toothbrush and a piece of screening. Remove the leaf, and let the paint dry. Then frame and hang.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Rake leaves. Jump in them. Rake them again.
4:30	Come inside.
4:45	Project: Crayon rubbings. Attach a leaf with good veins to table top with double-sided tape. Put a sheet of paper over the leaf and tape paper to the table. Rub over the leaf with the side of the crayon, with the paper torn off. Leaf outline and vein patten should appear. Make several, and use for placemats.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

**F is for Fall: Tuesday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Vocabulary. Teach Mr. Squirrel poem. Review older songs.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: put out items gathered on nature walk and a large magnifying glass for child to observe details.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack:
10:15	Outside time: kick a football off a tee.
11:15	Project: Caterpillars. Cut the bottom bumpy part of egg carton in half the long way, to make two caterpillars. Child may paint and decorate his caterpillars with feathers, pipe cleaners, wiggly eyes, etc.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack:
3:30	Outside time: ride tricycle.
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Fall Mural. Assist child in drawing a tree trunk on a large sheet of paper, using side of brown crayon. Glue bits of dried grass, twigs, acorns to lower portion around tree for ground. Child dips clean hands in yellow, orange, or red paint and makes prints around the branches for leaves.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

**F is for Fall: Wednesday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Review vocabulary, sight words. Sing "Leaves are Twirling" and review older songs.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Alike, Different, the Same game.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time. Is it cool enough to need a sweater where you live? Discuss that! Walk to the grocery store to buy apples, pumpkins, nuts, and popcorn for this week's activities.
11:15	Project: Fruit prints. Cut an apple in half both ways. Dip halves in paint and stamp on paper. Discuss the seeds inside, and how they could be planted to grow into a tree.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Bring farm animals out to the sand box. Build a sand barn. Add pine cones and twigs to decorate the sandbox farm. Build fences out of sand.
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, and prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Fall Leaves mobile. Parent cuts leaves from autumn colors. Cut a brown 9" circle. Draw a spiral on the circle and help your child to cut on the spiral line. Then child glues leaves to the brown spiral. Hang mobile in child's bedroom.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

**F is for Fall: Thursday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Review vocabulary and sight words. Teach Autumn Winds, review other songs.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Playdough. Use red, yellow, green home-made playdough, adding cinnamon spice to it. Use apple-shaped cookie cutters. Or roll playdough into a ball for an apple, add pipe-cleaners for worms or stems.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time: Let child help you with any “get ready for winter” activities. Do you remove screens and wash them? Do you need to wash the lawnmower, weedwacker, or garden shovel? Kids love to play with soap and water. Supervise, of course!
11:15	Project: Corn Cob Prints. Husk an ear of corn, remove the silk. Roll the corn cob in tempera paint, then roll it on a sheet of paper. Wash the ear before changing colors of paint.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Dress baby dolls in sweaters and take them outside with you. Push them in doll strollers. Wrap them up in a blanket to stay warm while you play.
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Autumn Leaves sun catcher. Attach a small square of clear contact paper to table top, sticky side up. Stick bits of colored tissue paper to the sheet of contact. Cover with another sheet of clear contact paper. Parent cuts a leaf shape from the finished sheet. Decorate the window with several of them.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

**F is for Fall: Friday**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Review vocabulary. Sing songs and fingerplays.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: <b>Counting.</b> Count nuts, seeds, pinecones, leaves, apples. Younger children should count to three, older children to ten or more. See note above about how to teach counting.
8:15	Free Play.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	<b>Outside time.</b> Visit an apple orchard. Pick apples. It's a great activity to visit the same orchard every season. Point out the pink blossoms in spring, the green apples in summer, the red apples in autumn, and the bare branches in winter.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	<b>Outside time:</b> Look for caterpillars. Woolly bears are easy to find this time of year. You can bring them inside to observe for a day, then release. For the adventurous, woolly bears can be kept all winter – they hibernate, then spin a cocoon in the spring.
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, and prepare for project.
4:45	<b>Project:</b> Decorate a small pumpkin with washable markers, old eye glasses, scarf, wig, hair band or barrette, etc. Use for table centerpiece. (you'll carve pumpkins in October).
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.