

Lovely Leaves

Babies and Toddlers

Feel free to do this lesson with two children at a time while others play. I recommend using a Centers approach in the classroom. (See preschool lesson).

Objectives

Children will:

- Hold one fall leaf and identify the color.
- Look at a picture book.
- Put pretend leaves on a tree.
- Look for leaves outside.

Materials

Mascot (a puppet or stuffed animal of your choice) with real maple leaves; *Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf*, by Lois Ehlert; fabric tree; animals; small basket of pretend leaves; nature sensory container (See photo of examples of materials. Make sure to use a toilet paper tube to check for items that are choking hazards: If it fits in it, it isn't safe. Carefully supervise small children with real leaves/sensory container).

Introduction

- Sing the [Welcome Song](#).
- **Hold up** the mascot with real maple leaves.
- **Give** each child one.

Lesson

Main Point: Leaves change colors and fall off the trees.

- **Ask:** "Who has a red leaf? Who has a yellow leaf?" (Show them red and yellow leaves.)
- **Say:** "You have one red maple leaf! You have one yellow maple leaf."
- **Hold up** the book and show it to the children.
- **Show** children the pictures, read whatever able; what you read should be dependent on their attention span.
- **Invite** children to place pretend fall leaves and animals on the fabric tree.

Close

Go outside and collect real leaves to add to a nature sensory container.

Preschool and Above

Objectives

Children will:

- Hold one fall leaf, identify the color and the quantity they each have.
- Form the numeral one.
- Listen to a book.
- Put pretend leaves on a tree.
- Look for leaves outside.
- Select their favorite colored leaf.
- Complete a number page.

Materials

Mascot with real maple leaves; *Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf*, by Lois Ehlert; fabric tree; pretend leaves; tactile numeral 1; sensory container; handout; glue sticks; crayons (See photo of examples of materials).

Introduction

- Sing the [Welcome Song](#).
- **Hold up** the mascot with real maple leaves.
- **Give** one to each child.

Lesson

Main Point: Leaves change colors and fall off the trees.

- **Ask:** “Who has a red leaf? Who has a yellow leaf?”
- **Children** can respond.
- **Hold up** the tactile numeral, 1.
- **Show** the children how to trace the numeral with your finger.
- **Invite** them to do it.
- **Say:** “Each of you has one maple leaf!”
- **Hold up** the book and show it to the children.
- **Read** the story.
- **Invite** the children to place pretend fall leaves on the fabric tree.

Closure/Music and Movement

Go outside and collect real leaves to add to the nature sensory container. Talk about how in fall leaves change colors and also fall to the ground. That is why the season is called fall! Pretend to be leaves, falling to the ground.

Center Time

Using a Centers approach in Early Childhood classrooms is a wonderful way to extend the classroom learning experiences, provide opportunities for socialization, as well as teach other subjects with a smaller group of children at a time. Centers can include the following: Dramatic Play, Blocks, Art and Writing, Manipulatives, Library, Sensory Play. These can even be set up in a home environment with some creativity. (photos)

Art and Writing Center: Provide real leaves, crayons with papers removed, and paper. Children can make leaf rubbings.

Manipulatives: Provide handouts, a variety of real leaves of different colors, glue sticks, and crayons. Children can select their favorite color leaf and glue on the paper. Then write the numeral one in the space provided using their favorite color.

Using a Glue stick:

1. Take the lid off.
2. Roll up the glue stick just a tiny bit.
3. Rub the glue part on the back of the leaf.
4. Stick on the paper.

Name: _____

I have _____ leaf on my
paper. It is my favorite
color leaf!

Photos

Art, writing, and dramatic play





Blocks



Library, manipulatives, and sensory container



Baby/toddler grasping and pouring



Storybox activity for preschool and up



Spooning and pouring



QR Codes for Links



Welcome Song

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=si-k1sqvbo0>