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November 2017

Opening the Gift

Fall For All

Hocus Pocus, It’s Fall! by Anne Sibley O’Brien
Under My Hood I Have a Hat by Karla Kuskin
The Busy Little Squirrel by Nancy Tafuri
Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert
Baa Baa Black Sheep by Jane Cabrera
Full of Fall by April Pulley Sayre
Leaf Jumpers by Carole Gerber
I’m a Turkey! by Jim Arnosky
Fall Leaves Fall by Zoe Hall

Nursery Rhyme: Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush

CD: “I Feel Crazy So I Jump in the Soup” from Victor Vito by Laurie Berkner

Songs & Fingerplays to Share

I Wish I Were A Leaf
I wish I were a leaf, a leaf, a leaf.
If I were a leaf,
I’d float in the wind like this.
I wish I were a leaf, a leaf, a leaf.
If I were a leaf,
I’d twirl in the wind like this.
I wish I were a leaf, a leaf, a leaf.
If I were a leaf,
I’d float down to the ground like this.

Frisky Squirrel
(tune: The Grand Old Duke of York)

Chop Chop
Chop, chop, choppi-ty-chop!
Chop off the bottom and chop off the top.
What we have left goes into the pot.
Chop, chop, choppi-ty-chop!

Oh, the frisky little squirrel
He gathers nuts and seeds.
He hides them for the winter months
So he’ll have all he needs.

Refrain:
Oh, up-up-up he goes
And down-down-down he comes.
He runs around – goes up and down.
His work is never done.

Put On Your Socks
(tune: Hickory Dickory Dock)

Hickory dickory dock
Let’s put on our socks
We walk around,
without a sound
When we put on our socks!
(repeat with march, hop, tip-toe, run, etc.)

It’s Getting Cooler!
Cooler weather
(hug self & shiver)
Wear a sweater.
(run hands down arms)
Leaves turn red and brown.
(hold arms overhead)
Windy breeze
(sweep arms back and forth)
In the trees.
(continue sweeping motion)
Leaves fall to the ground!
(flutter fingers down to floor)

Five orange pumpkins sitting on the ground.
One rolled over and tumbled all around.

My, oh, my! He was in a pumpkin pie!
Repeat, counting down to zero.

Your next visit will be: December ______
Next month’s theme will be: “Bells Are Ringing”
More Books to Share:

- Wonderfall by Michael Hall
- Yellow Time by Lauren Stringer
- A is for Autumn by Robert Maas
- My Leaf Book by Monica Wellington
- Kitten’s Autumn by Eugenie Fernandes
- The Leaves Fall All Around by Steve Mack
- Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn by Kenard Pak
- Fall Leaves: Colorful and Crunchy by Martha A. Rustad

Activity Ideas:

**Seed of the Day:** Taking any food allergies into consideration, plan a “seed of the day” snack, serving a different type of seed each day (such as sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, peanuts, popcorn, pomegranate, etc). Expand the options with items that contain seeds such as sesame bagels, poppy seed muffins, or flax seeds chips.

**Acorn Squeeze:** Remind little ones to calm down and think before they act with an acorn-themed sensory area. Gather brown pom-poms (acorns) and place them in a small tub. When a child needs to calm down and think, encourage her to visit the area and squeeze and squish the acorns. If desired, place a muffin tin in the area as well and the child can count the acorns as she places them in the tin. Remind her to breathe deeply and slowly as she works. When she is feeling more calm, she can rejoin her classmates.

**Cornmeal Play Dough:** If you wish, have the children help you make this no-cook play dough! Place in a mixing bowl 2 1/2 cups of flour, 1 cup of cornmeal, one tablespoon of oil, one cup of water, and a few drops of yellow food coloring. Stir the mixture until combined and then knead the dough thoroughly, adding oil as needed to reach the desired consistency. Place the dough in a center for youngsters to explore.

**Book of the Month:**

Practical Solutions to Practically Every Problem: The Survival Guide for Early Childhood Professionals by Steffen Saifer  PTC 372.21 S

“An encyclopedic how-to guide for the universal early childhood program problems, providing solutions to every possible problem faced by early childhood teachers before teachers encounter them. This classic resource has been updated to focus on current issues faced by educators, including teaching twenty-first century life skills, technology, and cultural responsiveness. This easy-to-use guide gives you quick practical help, now!

Educators will save time and energy with over eight hundred solutions to two hundred problems, including: Daily dilemmas and classroom issues—Partnering with families to raise happy children—Dealing with problematic behaviors from co-workers—Learning to take care of yourself to prevent burn-out.” (Amazon.com)

Road to Reading Tip:

Research Says: “Be particularly vigilant for symptoms of ear infections in your young child, since even very subtle changes in his early auditory experience can affect language development.”