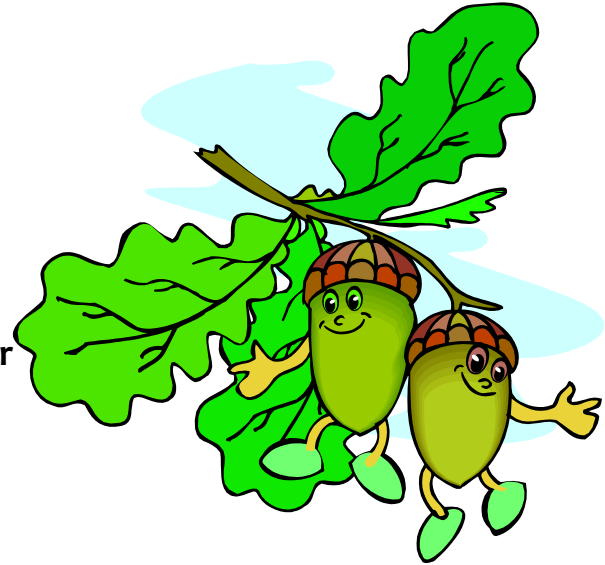


# Opening the Gift

## Nature Walk

**Each Living Thing** by Joanne Ryder  
**There Was a Tree** by Rachel Isadora  
**Patty's Pumpkin Patch** by Teri Sloat  
**Over In the Meadow** by Jack Ezra Keats  
**The Busy Little Squirrel** by Nancy Tafuri  
**Down In the Woods at Sleepytime** by Carole Lexa Schaefer  
**My Mindful Walk With Grandma** by Sheri Mabry  
**Your Hand In My Hand** by Mark Sperring  
**Frisky Brisky Hippity Hop** by Susan Lurie  
**Ruby's Birds** by Mya Thompson



## Nursery Rhyme: Two Little Blackbirds



### Songs & Fingerplays to Share



CD: "How Shall We March" from *I Love To Hear the Sounds* by Kathy Reid-Naiman

#### Orange Pumpkin

*(tune: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star)*

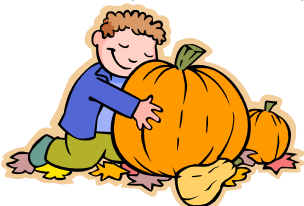
Pumpkin, pumpkin orange and round,  
*(stretch arms out and form a circle)*  
Sitting in the pumpkin patch on the ground.  
*(crouch down)*

Once you were a seed so small,  
*(pretend to hold a seed)*

Now you are a great orange ball!  
*(make huge circle with hands)*  
Pumpkin, pumpkin orange and round,  
*(stretch arms out and form a circle)*

Rolling, rolling on the ground.  
*(make rolling motion with arms)*

*Preschool Favorites: 35 Storytimes Kids Love by Diane Briggs*



#### Frisky Squirrel

*(tune: The Grand Old Duke of York)*

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.

*(repeat refrain)*

*preschooleducation.com*

#### Little Acorn in the Ground

Little acorn in the ground  
*(crouch down, hands covering head)*

Sitting so still.

Little acorn, will you sprout?

Yes, I will!

*(jump up)*

#### On the Tree, On the Ground

I went to an apple orchard-what did I see?

*(point to self, put hand above eyes)*

Apples high up in a tree!

*(point up)*

I went to an apple orchard-guess what I found?

*(point to self, place hands out with palms up)*

Apples down low on the ground.

*(point down)*

Reach up high.

*(stand on tiptoes)*

Bend down low.

*(touch toes)*

Gather the apples.

*(pretend to gather)*

Then home we go!

*(clap to the beat)*



## More Books to Share:

*Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert

*The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle

*A Walk In the Forest* by Maria Dek

*My Leaf Book* by Monica Wellington

*An Oak Tree's Life* by Nancy Dickmann

*In the Jerusalem Forest* by Devora Busheri

*Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn* by Kenard Pak



## Activity Ideas:

Autumn Indoors: Send your preschoolers crunching through leaves—inside! Visit your local craft store and purchase garlands or stems of silk leaves in fall colors. Cut the leaves from the garland and put them in a sensory tub. Add some real pinecones in various sizes. Then invite youngsters to explore! Encourage them to sort the pinecones by size and leaves by color, size, or shape!

*Mailbox Magazine Preschool edition Oct/Nov '03*

Seeds in the Wind: For a large motor activity, take the children outdoors and provide them with several types of seeds that travel with the wind (such as milkweed, dandelions, cattails, and so on). Challenge children to blow on the seeds and see how long they can keep the seeds in the air.

*My Big World of Wonder* by Sherri Griffin

Gather and Count: Scatter brown pom-poms (acorns) in your circle-time area. Invite two children (squirrels) to gather acorns in separate baskets. After all the acorns are gathered, enlist the help of the group to count the acorns in each basket and compare the amounts. Play until each child has had a turn to be a squirrel.

*Mailbox Magazine, Preschool Edition Oct/Nov 2011*

## Book of the Month:



*The Ultimate Book of Scavenger Hunts: 42 Outdoor Adventures to Conquer with Your Family* by Stacy Tornio PTC 796.14 T  
The author provides great ideas for getting your kids to enjoy and learn about nature. Heading to the zoo, aquarium or farm? Included are fun checklists with pictures that can increase the educational and fun value of your trip. Want to learn more about your neighborhood? Tornio includes scavenger hunts for your local farmer's market, park, nature trail, and body of water. Heading on a trip? Beach, nature center, state park, and mountain hunts are included. Ideas for hiking and camping are also included. Themed scavenger hunts by season, time of day, and color are also included. VERDICT Colorful and perfect for all year long, this book offers ideas for great ways to keep the learning going and have fun as a family.

*excerpt from Library Journal Reviews*



## Road to Reading Tip:

### Write All About It!

Preschoolers benefit from daily writing experiences, so it is helpful to embed writing in the daily routine, such as having children write (or attempt to write) their names at sign-in and during choice times. Be sensitive to preschoolers' varying levels of fine

motor skills and promote the joy of experimenting with the art of writing, regardless of a child's current skill level. Encourage invented spelling (Ouellette & Sénéchal 2017) and attempts at writing letters or letter-like symbols.

*excerpted from National Association for the Education of Young Children <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/nov2017/emergent-writing>*

