

Crafts 'n Snacks

A Monthly Series from Keepsake Curriculum

September

Craft: Paper Bag Fall Tree

Snack: Fall Tree Marshmallow Treats

Story Ideas:

"There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Leaves" by Lucille Colandro

"Leaves" by David Ezra Stein

"Why Do Leaves Change Color?" by Betsy Maestro

"Fletcher and the Falling Leaves" by Julia Rawlinson

Paper Bag Fall Tree

These fall trees made out of construction paper and brown paper bags are adorable! You basically only need paper and glue, but you get a really cool 3D project when you're done!

Materials:

Brown Paper Lunch Bag

Scissors

Pencil

Glue Stick & Glue Bottle

Fall colored construction paper ripped into pieces (yellow, orange, red, green if desired)

1 Green Sheet of 9x12 in. construction paper for the ground

Instructions:

1. In advance, cut strips into the paper bag, about a half inch apart. Cut from the opening of the bag to halfway down.

2. Open up the bag and stand it up on your work space.

3. Grabbing the center of the bag, twist everything together to form a trunk and base of a tree. Be sure to keep the bottom of the bag flat. The top pieces will all fan out, but that's ok. Those will become the branches.

4. Grab a few strips at a time and twist them together into separate branches. This step could still be done in advance, or you can assist your child if desired.

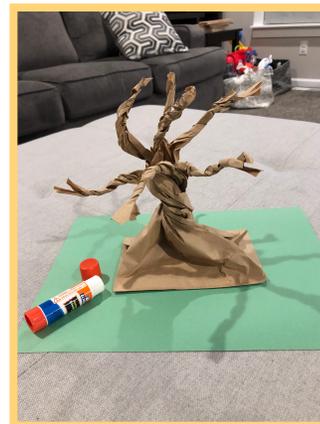
5. Continue twisting until all the strips have been turned into branches.



6. Use the glue stick to glue the bottom of the paper bag tree to the center of the green construction paper.

7. Take the fall colored construction paper pieces and begin gluing them onto the branches of the tree. Pieces can also be glue on the ground for “fallen” leaf piles.

8. Keep a paper towel handy to clean off sticky fingers. Have your child try both the glue bottle and glue stick to see which is easier for them to handle the leaves with.



9. Glue leaves until you're satisfied with how your tree looks.

*This craft was inspired by the paper bag tree at pikadillycharm.blogspot.com



Fall Tree Marshmallow Treats

Ingredients:

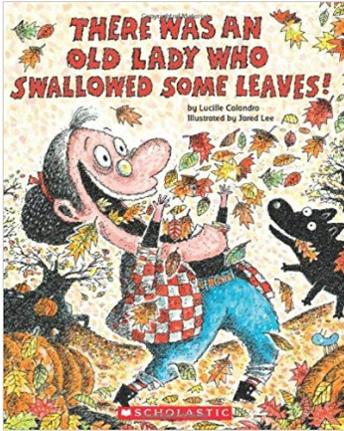
1/4 cups butter, cut up
10 oz tiny marshmallows
1 1/2 tsp vanilla
1/4 tsp salt
About 3 drops of green food coloring
4 cups corn flakes
3 cups rice cereal
1/2 cup sweetened shredded coconut (optional)
Pretzel Sticks
Fall sprinkles

Directions:

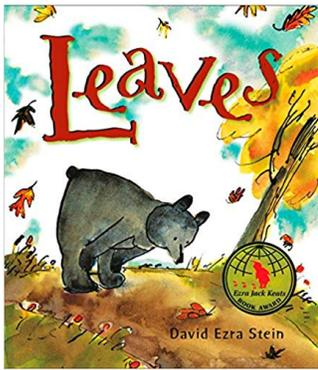
1. Line large baking sheet with parchment or waxed paper.
2. In a 4-6 quart pot, melt butter over low heat; stir in marshmallows. Continue stirring on low heat until melted and smooth.
3. Add vanilla, salt, and green food coloring; mix until combined and remove from heat.
4. Add cereals and coconut to marshmallow mixture; gently stir to coat.
5. Place a pretzel stick on prepared baking sheet.
6. Use a scoop to place one scoop of the cereal over half of the pretzel stick, creating a trunk for the tree; press down slightly to shape tree as desired.
7. Top with Sprinkles
8. Continue steps 5-7 until marshmallow cereal mixture is gone.
9. Let stand until set, about 30-60 minutes.

* This recipe was adapted from www.bhg.com

Great Read-Alouds for Kids



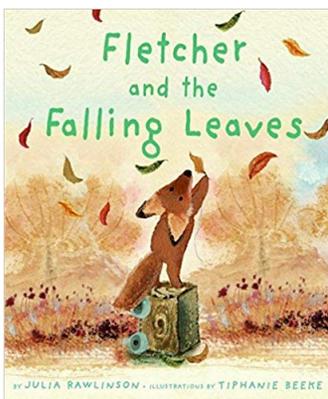
"There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Leaves" by Lucille Colandro - Everyone's favorite old lady is back, and this time she's swallowing all sorts of fall items! This time the list includes some leaves, a shirt, a pumpkin, a pole, some pants, a rope, and some hay. Do you have any idea why? Read this fun little book to find out!



"Leaves" by David Ezra Stein - In this fall story, it's a young bear's very first autumn, and the falling leaves surprise him. He even tries to put them back on the trees, but it just doesn't work. Eventually, he gets sleepy and burrows into the fallen leaves for a long nap. When he wakes up, it's spring, and there are suddenly brand-new leaves all around, welcoming him. Great for talking about the changing seasons.



"Why Do Leaves Change Color?" by Betsy Maestro - It's fall, and the leaves are changing color! Have you ever wondered why or how? Learn about the magical process of how leaves change their color with this Let's-Read-and-Find-Out picture book. Beautiful illustrations are accompanied by graceful text and simple, fun diagrams to help introduce concepts like photosynthesis and the different types of leaves. Also included are simple activities to do with leaves, like leaf rubbings.



"Fletcher and the Falling Leaves" by Julia Rawlinson - As the leaves fall from his favorite tree, Fletcher worries that something is terribly wrong. But then winter comes, and with it a wonderful surprise. Can you guess what it is? Enjoy this tale with Fletcher to find out. . . .