

# Playing At Home

## LEAF ART

- Go outside to collect colorful and interesting leaves.
- Take time to carefully observe the leaves you have collected. What shapes and edges do you see? What colors?
- Tape one leaf to a table.
- Place a sheet of paper on top of the taped leaf.
- Peel the paper wrapping off of a crayon and rub the long side on top of the paper. What do you see happening? You can go over the same leaf more than once with different colors.
- Try painting over the top of some of your leaf rubbings to see what a wax-relief effect looks like.
- Create a leaf collage by gluing leaves to a piece of paper. Make sure to use enough glue to make your leaves stick.
- Notice lines of symmetry - how the leaf has a center line and the similarities and differences on either side.

## WHAT IS MY CHILD LEARNING?

- Collecting leaves provides time for outdoor play and physical activity. Nature walks develop knowledge and respect for our environment and community.
- Gluing and creating collages develops fine motor skills, focus and concentration.
- Sharing activities together encourages communication and promotes cooperation.
- **Mathematical Development:** Collecting leaves provides opportunities for creative math exploration:
  - Sorting by size, color and shape
  - Observing similarities and differences
  - Noticing lines of symmetry & fractal patterns (patterns that are repeated in smaller forms throughout an object)
- **Cognitive Development:** Close observation helps children learn to focus, slow down and expand their understanding of the world around them.
- **Social/Emotional Development:** Close observation is also an important component of mindfulness.

## YOU WILL NEED:

Collection of leaves  
Glue  
Paper  
Crayons (Opt.: watercolor paint)  
Tape

## SONG OF THE WEEK

### 1-2-3 Leaves

(tune: Shortening Bread)

We're raking up the leaves  
And putting them in the basket  
Putting them in the basket, 1-2-3  
Colors, colors, so many colors  
These are the colors that I see

## POWER OF PLAY MESSAGE

### PLAY CONNECTS YOU & YOUR CHILD

- When you play with your child they feel valued.
- Playing together provides a view of the world through your child's eyes.



 play to learn  
Pierce County

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