



Harvesting Language Skills

DISCOVER what the season of *fall* has to bring by expanding your child's language through their senses. Sensory activities provide the perfect opportunity for your child to **expand their language and vocabulary** through their touch, smell, sight, sound and taste. What better way to experience our senses than during the season of *fall*!

Activity #1: Fall in Your Backyard

Go on a scavenger hunt with your child and discover what is in your own backyard. Have them pick up a variety of items and talk about it as you go along. Below is a list of ideas you can discuss with your child:

- Can you find a leaf that is red and yellow?
- What does it sound like when you step on a leaf? Does it make a loud or quiet sound?
- What happens to the leaf when you step on it? Does it break apart?
- Can you show me something that squirrels might like to eat? (Acorn)
- Can you find a pinecone?
- Can you make a big pile of leaves and then a little pile of leaves?
- Make a pile of brown leaves and a pile of red leaves. Which pile has more leaves? Which one has less leaves?



Activity #2: Fall Sensory Bin

Collect items from your backyard, such as leaves, acorns, pinecones, or sticks. Find items to add, like pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds or corn. Place all of the items you found into a plastic bin, bucket, or bowl. Have the child use their fingers, or tongs, to pick out items and have them describe it:

- What does it look like? Color or shape.
- What does it feel like? Is it smooth, bumpy, rough, prickly, etc.?
- How does it smell? Does it smell good or bad? Does it have any smell to it?
- Where can you find it? On a tree, ground, in a pumpkin, etc.?
- What does it sound like if you drop it in the grass?
- What does it sound like if you drop it on a hard surface, like a table?

Activity #3: Fall Scented Playdough

Make some playdough using fall colors (red, orange, and yellow) and add 1 tablespoon of spices to it! Discuss with your child what you are putting in it. Have them smell each spice and try to describe it.

- **Cinnamon** in red playdough
- **Pumpkin pie spice** in orange playdough
- **Ground nutmeg** in yellow playdough

Then add some texture to the playdough:

- **Corn**
- **Beans**
- **Pumpkin seeds**

Let your child play around with the playdough and feel the different textures. Discuss how each one feels. After playing with the playdough, pop some **popcorn** or toast some **pumpkin seeds** and have them as a snack! Talk about how they **taste**. Are they crunchy/chewy or salty/sweet?



These are just a few activities that you can do with your child at home. It is a fun way to incorporate learning and expansion of knowledge of the world around them. Share your knowledge with your child because building a strong vocabulary can help foster receptive and expressive language skills.

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