

# Science Time



## Autumn

Children are born scientists; they love to explore and discover. There are many activities you can enjoy doing at home with your little scientist.

### Ask Questions

- What colours do leaves change to in autumn?
- Do all trees lose their leaves in autumn?
- Does anything else fall of the trees in autumn?

### Try This Activity At Home – Leaf Rubbing

#### You will need

- White paper
- Coloured crayons (remove the paper around the crayon)
- A collection of leaves

#### What to do

- Lay the leaves flat on a table, making sure the veiny side is up.
- Place a sheet of paper on top of the leaf.
- Lay the crayon flat on the paper and colour over the top of the leaf to make a ‘rubbing’.



#### What’s happening?

When you use a crayon to rub over the top of the leaves, you get an imprint of the leaf. Your imprint shows the shape of the leaf and all the veins in the leaf.

#### Discover more

- Look at the veins on the leaves. The veins carry water to the very tips of the leaves. Look at the veins on your wrist; they are just like the veins on the leaves. Your veins and arteries carry blood all around your body.
- Make lots of leaf rubbings of different leaves. Choose leaves of different shapes and size and colour. Cut out your different leaf rubbings and stick them to your wall. Add a tree branch and you have your very own autumn tree inside.

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## Did you know?

- The leaves of some trees don't change colour in autumn; these are called evergreen trees. Trees that do change the colour of their leaves in autumn are called deciduous.
- Little creatures like worms, millipedes and snails are called composters. They eat the fallen autumn leaves and compost them. The nutritious compost helps feed the trees during the winter.

## Sing Songs

### All The Leaves Are Falling Down

(Tune - London Bridge Is Falling Down)

All the leaves are falling down, falling down, falling down.

All the leaves are falling down  
In the autumn.

Try making up more verses with your child!

## Try these other activities

**Sorting Leaves & Seeds:** Go for a walk and collect leaves and seeds (e.g. acorns) of different sizes, shapes and colours. Ask your child how they can sort the leaves and seeds into groups. What is the same and different about all the leaves and all the seeds? Sort the leaves and seeds into groups using different physical characteristics.

**Autumn Hands:** Use paper of different autumn colours to make hand shaped leaves. Trace around your hand and cut them out. Draw a tree trunk with branches, or use brown paper, stick it on the wall and then decorate with your cut-out hands.

**Worms Farm:** What happens to the leaves after they fall off the trees? Use a shovel to dig under a pile of autumn leaves. What animals can you find eating the leaves? You could make a worm farm, or compost heap and put worms in it. You can buy worms online if you can't find enough in your garden.

## Read Books

- *Autumn Leaves* by Ken Robbins.
- *When Autumn Comes* by Robert Maass.
- *My Autumn Book* by Wong Herbert Yee. Read aloud online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kADiaeBPws0>

## Investigate Websites

- Watch the Science Time *Autumn* video on YouTube.
- Watch The Magic School Bus episode *Falls with the Leaves* on Netflix or at Scholastics.
- Find out more about trees and meet the Treetures at [www.treetures.com/Meet1.htm](http://www.treetures.com/Meet1.htm)