

# www.Fall Art Ideas

Promote small motor development with these seasonal art ideas

**Materials:** Fall colored construction paper, fall colored paint, string, medicine dropper, play dough in fall colors, cinnamon and vanilla scents, cloves, apples, paint, mini pumpkins and acorn squash.

## **Descriptions:**

1. Cut paper into large leaf shapes use dropper to drop fall colored tempera onto paper. Fold paper in half and rub the closed paper open to a wonderful surprise.
2. Using the same shapes and paint dip a long piece of string into paint allow it to fall onto paper and lift.
3. Mix the scents into the play dough and use leaf shaped cookie cutters to play with.
4. Cut yellow, red and green apples in half. Take out seeds and save for a collage. Dip in paint and use as a stamp on white or fall colored paper.
5. Cut squash and pumpkins in half and dip in paint. Use as a stamp on colored paper

## **Fall Wreath**

This Autumn activity begins with an outdoor nature walk and ends with an indoor craft activity.

**Materials:** Leaves, acorns, pine cones, bow, brown paint and paper plates.

**Description:** Cut the center out of a paper plate and have the children paint the paper plate, brown. Next, go for a walk to find fall leaves, acorns and pine cones. When the plates are dry give the children glue and let them have fun. Away from the children, use the hot glue gun to glue any loose pieces and the bow.



## Mr. Pumpkin Head

Preschoolers use fine motor skills during this Autumn activity.

**Materials:** Pumpkin and Mr. Potato head pieces.

**Description:** Using a medium sized pumpkin, poke some holes where the eyes, nose and mouth should be (include hat and ears). Let the children decorate "Mr. Pumpkin Head" using Mr. Potato Head pieces.

## Fall Sorting

Preschool children sort a variety of fall objects during this activity.

**Materials:** 4 egg cartons, 12 acorns, 12 maple seeds, 12 pine cones, 12 leaves, or other fall objects small container.

**Description:** Place objects in small container on table. Encourage children to sort the objects into the egg cartons.

## Play Dough

This popular recipe produces a soft and cooperative clay that can be used over and over again and will remain pliant for weeks.

### CRAFT MATERIALS:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup water
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup salt
- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp cream of tartar
- Food coloring

1. Mix all ingredients together in a saucepan and cook over medium heat until the mixture holds together (keep mixing or it will stick to the bottom of the pan).

2. When the clay is cool enough to touch, your child can knead it on a floured board.

Tips:

This recipe's long drying time makes it most satisfying as a play dough (it's easy to roll into ropes and balls), but sculptures will dry eventually. If stored in an airtight container, this dough will last, refrigerated or unrefrigerated, for 2 to 4 weeks.

## OATMEAL PLAY DOUGH

Here's the clay equivalent of comfort food: sturdy, nubbly dough that provides hours of smushing and sculpting. It dries rock hard overnight and makes convincingly Jurassic-looking figures and pretty, earthy beads.

CRAFT MATERIALS:

1 cup rolled oats  
2/3 cup all-purpose flour, plus extra  
½ cup water  
Food coloring

1. Stir together all the ingredients in a large bowl, adding more flour if necessary, until the dough forms a lump. For colored clay, you can add drops of food coloring to the water before combining it with the dry ingredients.
2. Knead it on a floured surface, adding flour as needed, until it is smooth and not too sticky.

Tips:

Allow finished creations to air-dry overnight. Leftover clay can be refrigerated in a ziplock bag for up to three days.



## Stick Vase

Sticks gathered during a nature walk decorate a woody vase that even young children can make in minutes.

### CRAFT MATERIALS

Sticks (1/4 inch in diameter)

Garden clippers

Empty plastic jar

Thick rubber bands

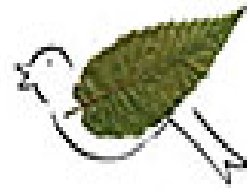
Raffia or ribbon

Glue and pinecones (optional)

1. Break or snip sticks to about an inch longer than the jar.
2. Put two rubber bands around the jar, one inch from the top and bottom. Now begin tucking the sticks under both rubber bands, placing them as close as possible to each other.
3. Once the jar is surrounded with sticks, slide the rubber bands together at the jar's middle and cover them with a decorative bow.
4. Glue on a few pinecones, then fill the vase with flowers. For campers uninterested in flower arrangements, this vessel also makes a fine pencil holder.

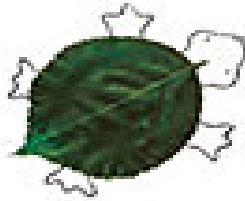
Use your imagination (and some paper, glue, and a pen or pencil) to turn ordinary backyard leaves into a whimsical menagerie.

## Foliage Friends



## CRAFT MATERIALS:

Autumn leaves from your yard



Paper

Glue

Pencils, pens, or crayons



1. Go outside and see what kinds of animals are hiding in your leaf piles. Below are some possibilities. When you've found leaves in your yard whose shapes you like, glue them to pieces of paper and use pencil, pen or crayon to make your creatures complete. To preserve your creations, press them between two books.
2. **MAPLE:** These leaves have three main points and lots of smaller ones; count them as they flutter by.
3. **ROSE:** The rounded shape of this bush's leaves makes them look a lot like little shields.
4. **BIRCH:** As big and tall as this white-bark tree can get, its leaves are as small and as light as feathers.
5. **GERANIUM:** You might flip your wig if you find one of these wild-looking leaves Use your imagination (and some paper, glue, and a pen or pencil) to turn ordinary backyard leaves into a whimsical menagerie

Inspired by "The Incredible Secret Formula Book" by Shar Levine and Leslie Johnstone, this is gorgeous stuff. Smooth and silky in your hands, it has a porcelain like finish and a soft, eye-catching shimmer when dry.

## **CRAFT MATERIALS:**

- 1 cup baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup cornstarch
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup water
- Food coloring (optional)

Time needed: Under 1 Hour

1. In a saucepan, stir together the baking soda and cornstarch. Add the water, mixing well.  
  
2. Cook the mixture over low heat (adults should supervise), stirring occasionally, until it resembles mashed potatoes, about 7 to 10 minutes. You will need to stir it almost constantly the last few minutes as it thickens.  
  
3. Remove the pan from the heat and set it aside. When the dough has cooled, turn it out onto a floured board. Knead the dough with your hands, adding more cornstarch as needed, to create a workable clay.

Tips:

For tinted clay, knead in a few drops of food coloring. Allow creations to air-dry overnight. Refrigerate any leftover dough in a ziplock bag for up to three days.



Cornucopias are a traditional symbol of harvest and abundance, and our homemade horn of plenty is no different.

## **CRAFT MATERIALS:**

- 9-inch paper plate
- Masking tape
- Scissors
- Craft glue
- Manila rope
- Clothespins or binder clips
- Twine
- Coffee filter

Time needed: Under 1 Hour

1. To make one, roll a 9-inch paper plate into a cone, securing it with masking tape. Bend the end of the cone slightly to curve it, then wrap the cone with more tape to create a smooth surface, leaving the hole at the tip untaped.
  
2. Next, use craft glue to fix a length of manila rope (available at hardware stores) around the mouth of the cone. Hold the rope in place with clothespins or binder clips and let the glue dry completely.
  
3. To cover the rest of the cone, fill the hole at the tip of the cone with craft glue, and stick one end of a 30-foot length of jute twine into the glue-filled hole. Add a line of glue along the length of the cone, then begin wrapping the twine around the cone as shown at right. Tuck the end of the twine under itself when you reach the manila rope and glue on shorter pieces of twine where needed to fill in any uncovered space. Let the glue dry completely before slipping a coffee filter inside the cone and filling it with nuts, popcorn, and fruit.



## HARVEST

### Books:

Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert

Oliver Finds His Way by Phyllis Root

Thanksgiving Is by Gail Gibbons

### Songs:

Harvest Time (Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle")

Pick the corn and pick the beans,

Pick the squash and other greens.

Pick the apples off the tree,

Then come and share a feast with me.

Bring your family out to play,

We'll call this Thanksgiving Day.

Autumn Leaves (Tune: "London Bridge")

Autumn leaves are falling down,      *Flutter fingers to the ground.*

Orange, yellow, red and brown.

See them blowing all around,      *Point to pointer finger.*

Whirling, swirling to the ground.      *Spin around and sit down.*

The More we Get Together

The more we get together, together, together

The more we get together the happier we'll be.

Cause your friends are my friends and my friends are your friends.

The more we get together the happier we'll be.

Gray Squirrel

Gray squirrel, gray squirrel,

Swish your bushy tail.

Gray squirrel, gray squirrel.

Swish your bushy tail.

Wrinkle up your little nose,

Put a nut between your toes.

Gray Squirrel, gray squirrel,

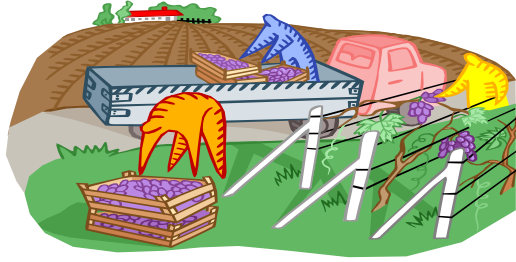
Swish your bushy tail.

*Hold your arms behind your back and swish them back and forth.*

*Wrinkle nose.*

*Touch toes.*

*Hold your arms behind your back and swish them back and forth.*



## FARM

### Books:

Big Fat Hen: by Baker, Keith

Cows in the Kitchen by Jane Crebbin

This Little Chick by Lawrence, John

### Song: To Market To Market

*(this is a good "lap-riding" or jogging, rhyme for babies. If baby is too young to hold their head up independently, hold them securely against your chest for this rhyme.)*

To market, to market to buy a fat pig,                    (hold baby in lap)  
Home again, home again, Jiggity jig!                    (jiggle gently in time to the words)  
To market, to market to buy a fat hog,  
Home again, home again, Jiggity jog!

### Little Red Wagon

Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,  
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,  
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,  
Won't you be my darling?

### Baa Baa Black Sheep

Baa baa black sheep, have you any wool?  
Yes sir, yes sir three bags full.  
One for my master and one for my dame  
And one for the little boy who lives down the lane.

### This Little Cow

*(this is a fun counting rhyme, with a tickle at the end!)*

This little cow eats grass                    (hold up thumb)  
And this little cow eats hay,                    (hold up pointer finger)  
And this little cow drinks water                    (hold up middle finger)  
And this little cow runs away,                    (hold up fourth finger)  
And this little cow does NOTHING,                    (hold up little finger)  
But lie around all day,  
So let's chase her, and chase her, and chase her away!                    (Tickle child all over)

### This Little Piggy

*(Tickling each toe as you recite the rhyme, start with big toe)*

This little piggy went to market,  
This little piggy stayed home,  
This little piggy had roast beef\* this little piggy had none.  
And this little piggy went wee-wee-wee  
All the way home. *(tickle up leg into tummy)*

### Hey Diddle Diddle

Hey diddle diddle, he cat and the fiddle,  
The cow jumped over the moon,  
The little dog laughed to see such sport,  
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

### Five Little Ducks

*(count on your fingers - or your child's - as you sing this song)*

Five little ducks went out one day  
Over the hill and far away  
Mama Duck said,  
"Quack, quack, quack, quack,"  
But only three little ducks came back.

*Continue with the same words for:*

Three little ducks...  
Two little ducks...  
One little duck...

*Then...*

Sad Mama Duck went out one day,  
Over the hills and far away,  
Mama duck cried,  
"Quack, quack, quack, quack"  
--- and all 5 little ducks came back!

### Old MacDonald's Farm

Old MacDonald had a farm  
Eee-i-ee-oh.  
And on that farm he has a pig.  
Eee-i-ee-oh.  
With an oink, oink, here and  
An oink, oink there  
Here an oink, there an oink, everywhere an oink, oink,  
Old MacDonald had a farm  
Eee-i-ee-oh.

*Continue versus naming more farm animals and making their noise.*