

Chat, Play, Share

Sing this song to the tune
of 'The wheels on the bus'.

The Leaves on the trees

The leaves on the trees turn
orange and brown,
orange and brown, orange
and brown.

The leaves on the trees turn
orange and brown,
All through the town.



Additional verses:

The leaves on the trees come swirling down, swirling down, swirling down. The leaves on the trees come swirling down. All through the town.

The leaves on the ground go swish, swish, swish, swish, swish, swish. The leaves on the ground go swish, swish, swish. All through the town.

Younger Children

This is a lovely song to sing to your child whilst you are out for an autumn walk. Find a tree with autumnal leaves and look up through it as you sing the first verse. Pretend to swirl around like the leaves in the second verse, then find some leaves to swish up with your feet as you sing the last verse. If it's dry listen together and see if you can hear the leaves crunching under your feet.

Older children

Enjoy learning the song with your child. When you're out and about look for autumn trees and talk about what you see. See if your child can suggest different words for the verses reflecting what they see. Perhaps 'red and yellow' leaves for the first verse or 'The leaves on the trees have fallen down' if the tree is now bare. Can they suggest different words to describe how the leaves fall in the second verse? E.g. tumbling, spinning, floating or gliding.

Chat Play Share...Other ideas you could try....

Share a story together about autumn or one that is set in autumn. Chat about the pictures and story. Examples of stories:

- Pumpkin soup by Helen Cooper
- The very helpful hedgehog by Rosie Wellesley
- Hello autumn by Jo Lindley
- Red leaf, yellow leaf by Lois Ehlert
- It was a cold dark night by Tim Hopgood
- Hedgehugs: Autumn hide-and-squeak by Steve Wilson and Lucy Tapper

Autumn scavenger hunts



Spend time with your child outside finding some autumn leaves and take time to talk about what you find. Can your child name the different colours or talk about their shape or size? Why not have a go at completing the Nature Detectives 'Leaf Challenge' which involves sorting leaves. Details at:

http://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_leaf_sorting_challenge.pdf

Following instructions is a great way to help children develop their listening skills. Challenge your child to listen to your instructions then find what you ask for as quickly as possible. Depending on the age of your child alter what you expect them to find (this will also be affected by your location). Can they find two yellow leaves, an acorn, a conker, a crinkled-up leaf or a beech nut? You may need to teach your child the names of natural items found in autumn first!



Collect some autumn leaves and objects together and encourage your child to use them to make patterns or pictures with you. Follow their lead and comment on what you see them doing. Model new words labelling or describing what you are using. Often children will then copy these words.

(Before completing scavenger hunt activities such as these ensure you have talked to your child about what is safe/ unsafe to collect. Be familiar with the area you're in and highlight things they shouldn't pick up e.g. toadstools. Teach them to tell you if they see something they think is unsafe and always wash hands afterwards).