

Autumn Leaf Absorption



P
Preschoolers
2.5 - 4 years

Autumn brings beautiful and vibrant fall colors to our neighborhoods. Want to bring autumn into your home with a few simple materials? Then look no further! This activity allows children to see colors change in real-time.

Learning Outcomes

Domain:

Literacy

Indicator:

Linking new experiences with words they know

Skills:

Vocabulary



Materials

- Coffee filters
- Markers
- Water
- Clear glass
- Pencil
- (optional) Outline of leaf shapes to trace



Instructions

Step 1: You can start off this activity by going for a walk outside or reading a book about the changing fall leaf colors. What colors are outside and in the book?

Step 2: Next, take your coffee filters and lay them flat. Using hand over hand technique, trace the outline of a leaf onto the coffee filter in the middle.

Step 3: Have your child draw a thick circle in the middle of the leaf shape leaving the middle of the circle empty (similar to a donut shape).

Step 4: Fold the leaf 3 times (in half, and half again) making a point in the middle of the white circle.

Step 5: Have your child dip the point of their white circle in the glass of water so only the white tip touches the water.

The water should begin to travel up the filter spreading the water and color around.

Step 5: Once the color has traveled up the coffee filter, unfold the leaf, and let it dry. Create a colorful leaf collage using multiple colorful leaves!



Age Adjustments

For older preschoolers: Older children can experiment with the absorption of different papers- tissue paper, paper towel, printer paper etc.

For younger toddlers: Younger children may need an adult or older child to help keep their focus when the water is “walking” up the coffee filter. Try using your camera to create a time-lapse!



Playful Questions

- What would happen if we colored a smaller circle on the leaf?
- What would happen if we tried this with vinegar instead of water?
- How would you describe how the water is moving up the coffee filter?
- How can we make a tie-dye leaf?
- Why is the water moving up the coffee filter?

