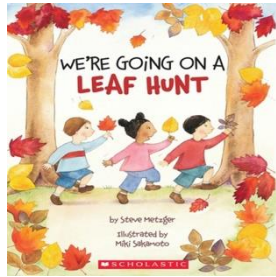


# GOING ON A LEAF HUNT

## THINK ABOUT. . .

Expanding upon language is an important step for language development and can be used in a variety of situations. Something that children enjoy and need to learn about are the seasons, so this is great opportunity to learn more about fall. One way that children learn is through experiences and incidental learning. Hearing words used repeatedly and having your children use those words can help expand a child's vocabulary and expose them to new language.



## ACTIVITY

- 1- Read the story We're Going on a Leaf Hunt! This should be read multiple times with your child before this activity so they can become familiar with the content and the words used in the story. While reading the story talk about how you will be going to go on a leaf hunt together like the kids do in the story.
- 2- If it is fall and there are real leaves nearby that will be easy to collect, go to that place! This can either be in the front yard or a park, anyplace where you can walk around and collect leaves. If there are no leaves nearby or it is not fall, use fake leaves or printed leaves and place around the house inside or outside. This could be a good idea if it is cold outside as well.
- 3- Have a basket or bag or something to collect the leaves in. Have each person doing this activity have something to collect leaves in, this way it will seem more like a group activity.
- 4- Walk around the house/outside and use adjectives to describes the leaves being found. Use words and colors that are used in the book and don't be afraid to repeat sentences and words. The point of this is to expand upon their language of fall so it is a good thing for them to hear words multiple times, so they make connections. Encourage your child to use their language as well! Ask open-ended questions, questions that require more than one word answer, and respond with full sentences.
- 5- Talk about fall and leaves and expand upon their language of seasons. For example, have them describe what the leaves look like and where it was found. "I found a red leaf on the table". It will also be a good opportunity to use prepositions (on, under, next to, above). The great thing about this activity is that it is simple but provides for language expansion that requires few materials.

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Leaves (real, fake or paper)
- Container (basket, bag, backpack)

## PREPARATION:

- 1- Read the story going on a leaf hunt.
- 2- Grab a basket, bag or anything that can hold leaves.
- 3- If there are no real leaves available, get fake leaves that can be found at a dollar store or craft store or print a variety of different color leaves.

## VOCABULARY:

- Leaves
- autumn
- Fall
- rain
- Tree
- red
- Orange
- yellow
- Brown
- basket
- Tall
- under
- Dark
- on
- Forest
- above
- colorful
- swooshing

HELPFUL TIPS:

- When your child talks about something that they see and they only use one word, this is an opportunity to expand upon their language. Respond back to them using that word in a full sentence for example, “red leaf!” you could respond by saying, “You found a red leaf on the rock!” Responding like this consistently will help give them a model of full sentences and how to use the word they know in a sentence.
- Since this activity is giving them language opportunities for fall, it will be a great chance to narrate what you are doing. Talk about all the leaves that you see and the different colors. You can also talk about the scenery that is around you or if you are at home you can talk about where leaves can be found outside. Talking about what you are doing as you are doing it will help connect words to objects and give your child a model of language. You can also take this time to talk about different activities or holidays that happen in fall. The great thing about this activity is that you can adjust it in a variety of ways that will interest your child and keep them engaged!

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