

Storytime Outline: Toddler Time
Theme: Fall

1. Opening song: Clap and Sing Hello! Sung to the tune of Farmer in the Dell.

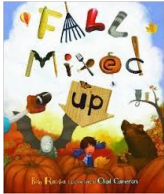
We clap and sing hello,
We clap and sing hello,
With our friends at storytime,
We clap and sing hello!

Repeat verses: Wave and sing hello, Stop and sing hello¹

2. Introduce the theme for the day and allow children/caregivers a chance to get settled.
3. Story song: If You're Ready for a Story. Sung to the tune of If You're Happy and You Know It.

If you're ready for a story, take a seat
If you're ready for a story, take a seat
Clap your hands and stomp your feet
Make your hands all nice and neat
If you're ready for a story, take a seat.²

4. Read first story: *Fall Mixed Up* by Bob Rackzka.



5. Action song: Autumn Leaves and Falling Down. Sung to the tune of London Bridges.

Autumn leaves are falling down, falling down, falling down.
Autumn leaves are falling down, down, down on the ground.
Have children stand and hold their arms up with fingers wiggling like leaves falling down, and crouch down until they are on the ground.

Rake them up and make a pile, make a pile, make a pile.
Rake them up and make a pile, guaranteed to make you smile.
Have children stand and pretend to rake leaves. Hold fingers to their lips to make a smiling gesture.

Jump into the pile of leaves, pile of leaves, pile of leaves.
Jump into the piles of leaves, taking turns if you please.

¹ Credit: Storytime Katie

² Credit: Storytime Katie

Have children jump up and down into the leaf pile.

Put a leaf in a book, in a book, in a book.

Put a leaf in a book, in a few months, take a look.

Have children bend down, pick up a leaf, and clap hands together to put it in the book.

Open the book and look at the leaf.

Autumn leaves are falling down, falling down, falling down.

Autumn leaves are falling down, down, down, down on the ground.

Have children stand and hold their arms up with fingers wiggling like leaves falling down, and crouch down until they are on the ground.³

6. Felt board: Fall Is Not Easy



This felt board is designed to accompany the story *Fall Is Not Easy* by Marty Kelley. Use the book as a guide to tell the story and show the different patterns in the leaves and the tree changes colors for the fall. The pictures below show the felt board pieces that are used in this activity. This activity was created during my practicum with the Carrollton Public Library.

7. Finger puppets: Five Little Pumpkins. Note: Children can play along with their own fingers.

Five little pumpkins, sitting on the gate,

The first one said, “My, it’s getting late!”

The second one said, “There are witches in the air!”

The third one said, “I don’t care!”

The fourth one said, “Let’s run and run and run!”

The fifth one said, “It’s all Halloween fun!”

Then “who” went the winds and out went the lights,

And five little pumpkins rolled clear out of sight.

8. Action song: Leaves on the Trees. Sung to the tune of Wheels on the Bus.

The leaves on the trees turn orange and red (*rolling arms*)

Orange and red, orange and red

The leaves on the trees turn orange and red

All around the town

The leaves on the on the trees come tumbling down (*flutter fingers*)

Tumbling down, tumbling down

The leaves on the trees come tumbling down

All around the town

³ Credit: Shari and Jerry Talon, Songs for Teaching

The leaves on the trees go swish, swish, swish (*wave arms side to side*)
Swish, swish, swish, swish, swish, swish
The leaves on the trees go swish, swish, swish
All around the town

We'll rake them up and jump right in (*rake leaves and jump into pile*)
Jump right in, jump right in
We'll rake them up and jump right in
All around the town⁴

9. Read second story: *Kitten's Autumn* by Eugenie Fernandes.



10. Wrap up storytime and close out session.
11. Closing rhyme: Tickle the Clouds. Note: Suit action to the words of the poem.

Tickle the clouds.
Tickle your toes.
Turn around and touch your nose.
Crouch down low,
And reach up high,
Storytime's over – Wave goodbye!⁵

⁴ Credit: Lizzy Borden

⁵ Credit: Storytime Katie