

Theme: Fall Nature Walks

Date: October 15, 2020

Hello StrongStart friends,

Today's email is done by Ms. Maxine (from Champlain Annex).

Nature walks change as the season changes. For example, summer nature walks look and feel so different than a fall one! There is so much for children to see, touch, smell and discover on a fall nature walk. You don't need to go too far - you can even have it in your own back yard or neighbourhood park!

When you are on the walk, allow your child to set the pace. Rushing along means you might miss an amazing learning opportunity. Bring a bag so they can start a nature collection of things like pinecones, tree bark, leaves, sticks and rocks. You can use these materials to make different types of nature collages:

Nature Collage - a collection of things you've found on your walk.



Selfie Collage - a self-portrait based on the things you've found on your walk.



You can also use the natural materials to create a setting for stories. For example, you can set up a little home and prompt the children by asking them who lives there.



When you are done with your natural materials, come sing a song called "Falling Leaves" with Ms. Maxine - <https://youtu.be/KxsohoEE0dM>.

Falling, falling, falling leaves.

Mother Nature, did you sneeze? AHH-CHOO!

Bless you!

Red and yellow, orange and brown.

Falling, falling, falling down.

Falling, falling, falling leaves.

Mother Nature, did you sneeze? AHH-CHOO!

Bless you!

Here is a fall fingerplay you can sing too! It's called "Five Little Acorns":

Five little acorns sitting in a tree,

Along came Mr. Squirrel, as hungry as could be.

Then the fall winds blew and rustled all the leaves.

Down came an acorn, Mr. Squirrel was pleased!

(Repeat for 4, 3, 2, 1).



Another activity you can do while on a nature walk is bird watching. Take pictures of the different birds (or animals) you see on your walk. Look through the pictures when you get home and talk about what you see. Use this as an opportunity to promote oral language and bonding time with each other 😊



To finish up this email, join Ms. Maxine as she reads "Shh! We Have a Plan" by Chris Haughton - <https://youtu.be/6rSEs5jt21Y>



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