



# Fall Leaf Fun

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No matter where you live in Ohio, you're not far from finding trees covered in a huge array of reds, oranges, yellows, greens, purples, browns, and lots of other colors in between. Fall's explosion of colors and Ohio's abundance of trees make this a great opportunity to talk with Cloverbuds about how, like fall's leaves, we all have similarities and differences, and to do a couple of activities that help Cloverbuds make connections that, like tree leaves in the fall, we show our true colors when we recognize, respect, and celebrate each other's uniqueness.

At a park or other location with several different kinds of trees with fall leaves:



## Ask

- *What do you notice about all the leaves on these trees?* – encourage responses and help Cloverbuds focus on leaf colors, shapes, sizes, still attached, fallen off, etc.
- *How many different colors do you see?* – offer additional color descriptors that might be new to Cloverbuds, such as rust, ruby, mauve, crimson, amber, gold, bronze, olive, ochre, etc.
- *How would you describe the shapes of the leaves? How about their sizes?* – talk with the Cloverbuds about their observations.
- *How many different leaves can you find?* – give each Cloverbud a grocery bag and ask them to collect different kinds, shapes, and colors of leaves.



## Do

- Explain to the Cloverbuds they are going to use the leaves they collected to make a leaf person...a picture that represents them!
- Give each Cloverbud a piece of construction paper and a glue stick (optional: craft wiggly-eyes or corn kernels or soybeans). If they have trouble creating their leaf person, ask questions to get them to consider how they could arrange the leaves to look like a stick figure—*what shape leaf would make a good head? Arms? Legs? Feet? Hands? Mouth? Ears? Nose? Hair?* If needed, make an example to show them.





When they've completed their leaf person, bring their attention back and ask:

- *What do you notice about our leaf people?* – help the group focus on the uniqueness and differences each leaf person has, similar to how each Cloverbud is different and unique in their own special way.
- *What would it be like if each one of us was exactly the same?* – talk with the Cloverbuds about their observations, maintaining respect for everyone in the group and summarize with a statement that reflects your appreciation for the diversity each Cloverbud brings to the group.



### Digging Deeper

Interested in knowing more about...

*Ohio trees*, including pictures of leaves? Check out the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry online index at <http://forsestry.ohiodnr.gov/trees>

*Talking with young children about diversity?* Check out the many resources for parents and educators at <http://pbs.org>

Books about fall leaves and diversity to read with your Cloverbuds? Here are a handful of ideas to get you going. Look for these, and others, at your local library, or online:

- ◆ *Look What I Did with a Leaf*, by Morteza E. Sohi
- ◆ *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert
- ◆ *We're Going on a Leaf Hunt*, by Steve Metzger
- ◆ *Sneetches* by Dr. Seuss
- ◆ *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes
- ◆ *Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match* by Monica Brown