

The Fall Craft Afternoon Kit

A printable companion to Fall Crafts for Kids of All Ages

Print this kit and keep it with the craft supplies. It gives you the five projects at a glance, the full supply list with substitutions, the age guide, the mess-and-clean-up plan, a before-you-start checklist and a page to record what you made — everything you need to run a craft afternoon without scrolling back through the article.

The Five Projects at a Glance

Project	Hands-on time	Best age	Mess	Shop trip?
Leaf animal cards	20 – 30 min	4+	Low	No — leaves from outside
Paper bag tree	25 – 35 min	3+	Low	No
Beaded corn cob	20 – 30 min	4+	None	Beads and pipe cleaners
Pumpkin and leaf printing	30 – 40 min	2+	High	Paint and a sponge
Marbled leaf garland	35 – 45 min	6+	High	Shaving cream and paint

Pick ONE project for the afternoon, not five. The single most common reason a craft session ends in tears is trying to run more than one at once.

Supply Checklist

Section	Item	On hand?
Nature walk	A bag or basket for collecting	
Nature walk	Flat leaves in several colours and sizes	
Nature walk	Pinecones, acorns, small twigs	
Paper	Construction paper in autumn colours	
Paper	Cream or white card stock	
Paper	A brown paper lunch bag	
Adhesive	White school glue	
Adhesive	Glue stick	
Adhesive	Clear tape	
Tools	Child-safe scissors	
Tools	A shallow tray or baking sheet	
Tools	An old sponge or a cut pool noodle	

Section	Item	On hand?
Paint	Washable paint: orange, red, yellow, green	
Paint	A shallow dish for each colour	
Decorating	Googly eyes	
Decorating	Pipe cleaners	
Decorating	Wooden beads	
Decorating	Kitchen twine or yarn	
Clean-up	Newspaper or a plastic tablecloth	
Clean-up	An apron or an old shirt	
Clean-up	Damp cloths and a bowl of warm soapy water	

Substitutions That Actually Work

If you do not have	Use instead	What changes
Googly eyes	Small circles cut from white and black paper	Nothing — glue them the same way
Pipe cleaners	Twist ties or thin garden wire	Slightly harder for small hands to bend
Wooden beads	Dried beans, pasta tubes or cereal hoops	Pasta can be painted first for more colour
Shaving cream	Thick white hand soap or whipped soap	Marbling is a little less crisp
Washable paint	A washable marker scribbled onto a dish and dabbed	Softer colour, less coverage
Card stock	The blank side of a cereal box	Sturdier, and free
Kitchen twine	Yarn, ribbon or a shoelace	Yarn is easier for small hands to thread

What Each Age Can Do Alone

Age	Can do alone	Needs you for	Skip for now
2 – 3	Dab paint, press a stamp, tear paper	Scissors, glue control, threading	Beaded corn, marbled garland
4 – 5	Glue stick, arrange leaves, stamp shapes	Cutting shapes, tying, pouring paint	Fine threading, sharp scissors
6 – 8	Cut with child-safe scissors, thread beads, follow steps	Set-up, the squeegee step, clean-up	Nothing on this list

Age	Can do alone	Needs you for	Skip for now
9 – 12	The whole project, start to finish	Only the messiest steps	Nothing on this list

Mess and Clean-Up Plan

Project	Protect	Clean with	Drying time
Leaf animal cards	Nothing needed	Nothing needed	20 min
Paper bag tree	Nothing needed	Nothing needed	30 min
Beaded corn cob	Nothing needed	Nothing needed	None
Pumpkin and leaf printing	Newspaper over the whole table	Damp cloth while wet	1 hour
Marbled leaf garland	Newspaper plus a tray	Warm soapy water, then a rinse	2 hours

Before You Start

- The table is covered before anything is opened.
- Every child is in an apron or an old shirt.
- Paint is poured into shallow dishes, not squeezed straight from the bottle.
- Scissors are child-safe and counted back in at the end.
- One project is chosen — not two, and not five.
- A drying shelf or floor space is cleared in advance.
- Damp cloths and a bowl of warm soapy water are already out.

The Afternoon, Hour by Hour

Time	What happens
0:00 – 0:10	Cover the table, aprons on, supplies laid out in the middle.
0:10 – 0:25	The nature walk, or the leaf hunt in the garden. Bags in hand.
0:25 – 0:30	Sort the haul: big leaves, small leaves, flat leaves, twigs.
0:30 – 1:00	The project itself. Work alongside them rather than watching.
1:00 – 1:10	Clean hands, clear the table, move the work to the drying shelf.
1:10 – 1:20	Name the pieces and put them somewhere they can be seen.

What We Made

Date _____ Project _____

Date _____ Project _____

Date _____ Project _____

Date _____ Project _____

Next Autumn's List

Try next time _____

Buy before then _____

Skip next time _____

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