

The Toddler Autumn Activity Planner

A printable companion to Simple Fall Activities for Toddlers

Print this planner and keep it on the fridge. It gives you all twenty-five activities at a glance with the age, mess level and time each one needs, the five-minute setup checklist, the three-layer sensory bin formula, a four-week rhythm you can repeat all season, a safety checklist and an activity log to tick off as you go.

All 25 Activities at a Glance

#	Activity	Age	Mess	Time
1	Leaf pile jumping	12m+	Low	20 min
2	Leaf stomping	12m+	Low	10 min
3	Nature walk with a paper bag	18m+	Low	30 min
4	Chalk and puddles	18m+	Medium	20 min
5	Acorn roll down a board	2y+	Low	15 min
6	Three-layer sensory bin	18m+	Medium	20 min
7	Pumpkin-scented cloud dough	2y+	High	25 min
8	Apple foam	18m+	High	15 min
9	Leaf soup	18m+	High	20 min
10	Spiced playdough	2y+	Medium	30 min
11	Tape-resist art	2y+	Medium	20 min
12	Apple printing	18m+	High	20 min
13	Leaf rubbings	2y+	Low	15 min
14	Handprint wreath	2y+	Medium	30 min
15	Sticky tree	18m+	Low	20 min
16	Pumpkin bars	2y+	High	45 min
17	Apple taste test	18m+	Low	10 min
18	Washing vegetables	18m+	Medium	15 min
19	Spice smelling jars	2y+	Low	10 min
20	The same walk, every week	12m+	Low	30 min
21	Pumpkin patch visit	18m+	Low	2 hrs
22	Library story time	12m+	Low	45 min

#	Activity	Age	Mess	Time
23	Farmers' market	2y+	Low	1 hr
24	Fire pit evening	3y+	Low	1 hr
25	Acorn transfer with tongs	2y+	Low	15 min

Mess levels: Low = sweep or shake a sheet. Medium = wipe a tray and wash hands. High = shower, change of clothes and a mop, and worth it.

The Five-Minute Setup Checklist

- Autumn materials bin is stocked: leaves, acorns, pinecones, scoops, cups.
- A sheet or shower curtain is down under the play area.
- Anything that needs measuring is already measured.
- The activity is set up at their height, on a low table or the floor.
- Clean-up supplies are out: damp cloth, bin bag, towel.
- The boundary has been said out loud: the rice stays in the tray.
- One backup activity is ready for when the first one ends.

The Three-Layer Sensory Bin Formula

Every good sensory bin has the same three parts. Pick one from each column and you have a bin in two minutes, with no recipe to follow.

Base (the bulk)	Filler (the interest)	Tools (the movement)
Dry rice	Acorns	Scoops
Dry lentils	Pinecones	Cups
Dried beans	Leaves	Spoons
Corn kernels	Small gourds	Tongs
Play sand	Cinnamon sticks	A muffin tin
Shredded paper	Pumpkin seeds	A funnel

If your child still mouths objects, use only large materials and skip rice, lentils and beans entirely. Dried beans are a genuine choking hazard.

Skills by Age

Age band	What they can do	Activities that fit
12 to 18 months	Mouths everything, transfers objects hand to hand, loves cause and effect	Large-object bins, leaf stomping, water play, stacking
18 to 24 months	Walks and climbs, carries and dumps, follows one-step directions	Leaf hunts, scooping, hand painting, stamping
2 to 3 years	Sorts by colour and shape, scribbles with intent, pours with help	Sorting trays, tape-resist art, playdough, apple printing
3 to 4 years	Cuts with help, draws shapes, follows two-step directions	Collage, threading, simple baking, scavenger hunts

Your Four-Week Autumn Rhythm

One outdoor activity, one messy activity and one quiet activity each week. That is twelve activities a month without ever planning a big day out. Repeat the four weeks all season.

Week	Outdoor	Messy	Quiet	Done
Week 1	Leaf pile and stomp	Sensory bin with rice and acorns	Leaf rubbings	
Week 2	Nature walk with a bag	Apple printing	Sorting leaves by colour	
Week 3	Acorn roll down a board	Cloud dough with pumpkin spice	Threading leaves onto a stick	
Week 4	Chalk and puddles	Pumpkin bars in the kitchen	Sticky tree with contact paper	
Week 5	Leaf pile and stomp	Sensory bin with lentils	Leaf rubbings	
Week 6	Nature walk with a bag	Spiced playdough	Sorting leaves by size	
Week 7	Acorn roll down a board	Apple foam	Leaf rubbings	
Week 8	Chalk and puddles	Handprint wreath	Sticky tree	

Safety Checklist

- Nothing on the floor fits through a toilet roll tube (choking risk under three).
- If my child still mouths objects, only large materials are out.
- I know which plants and berries grow where we walk, and we do not eat them.
- Water bins, baths and puddles are never left unsupervised, not even for a moment.
- Scissors, hot glue and sharp tools are out of reach, every time.
- Allergies in the house and among visiting children are checked before food play.
- A bucket of water is within reach whenever there is an open flame.

Clean-Up by Mess Level

Mess level	What it means	Clean-up
Low	Dry, contained, no staining	Shake the sheet outside. About 30 seconds.
Medium	Wet but washable, contained to a tray	Wipe the tray, rinse tools, wash hands. About 2 minutes.
High	Paint, dough, water or food colouring	Shower, change of clothes, mop. About 10 minutes.

Activity Log

Tick what you did and jot a note. Over a season this becomes a record of what your child loved, which is the best guide to what to set up next autumn.

Date	Activity	Loved it?	Notes

Notes for Next Autumn

What worked best

What to skip next time

Materials to restock

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