

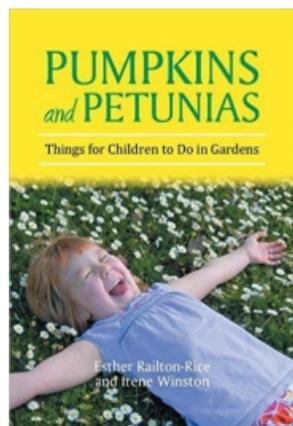
CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND RESOURCES REVIEW

Brenda Weiser and Jill Smith, Editors

Each issue of the journal will focus on a theme for children's books, activity guides, and resources. Children can use their five senses to discover what lives around them and how all things interact. *All about Fall* allows you to celebrate fall events, changing of the seasons, and scary animals. Here are few resources that can enhance your teaching this fall.

Future themes include *Winter Wonders* which will concentrate on how plants and animals survive along with what you can do for animals in the winter. For the spring, *Gardening with Children* will follow the winter and the emphasis will be getting children outside and planting gardens with them.

Pumpkins and Petunias: Things for Children to do in Gardens by *Esther Railton - Rice and Irene Winston*



Fall gardening is a wonderful adventure with young children. After reading *Pumpkins and Petunias*, you are going to want to round up some young children and take them to the local garden to learn about their place. The audience for this book is anyone that provides for young children. This includes parents, teachers, day-care providers, grandparents, and Head-start program leaders.

The book begins with an introduction which includes background information on gardening and the current standards, explains the different kinds of gardens, and how to use a garden for more than play, A portion of the introduction also includes how to use the activities, safety, materials needed, and how to include writing with the young children.

A collection of activities that are grouped into eight "Things to Do" topics, provides you with ideas and lessons to do in the garden. Let's Explore, Let's Measure, and Let's Enjoy Winter are just three of the sections found in the book. Each section contains four to ten activities that are correlated to the NAEYC

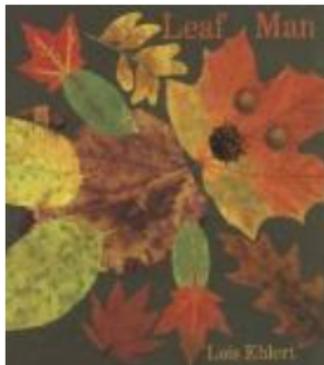
standards such as Criteria for the Arts, Health and Safety, the Next Generation Science Standards for grades K – 2 along with the Common Core Standards for mathematics and English Language Arts.

Each activity includes at least one objective, a “Note to the Leader” which includes tips on how to conduct the activity or even safety with the children, a list of materials and the step by step procedures needed to implement the activity. In addition, in each activity you will find the concepts being taught, along with the processes of learning being used by the students. Finally, each activity includes “Suggested Related Activities” segment where you are provided with ideas on how to incorporate specific subjects such as science, Language Arts, or Art.

This book not only provides you with numerous activities, but gives you ideas on how STEM elements and the Arts can be emphasized in a garden setting. To address the why should we take children outside, a brief explanation, based on research, is included along with safety in the garden and taking students outside.

Overall, Pumpkins and Petunias will spark your interest in using the local garden or even planting a garden that young children can play while learning about their environment. This book is a wonderful resource in itself and would benefit any early childhood or environmental educator, including students in early childhood courses. ISBN: 978 -1 -4836 -8852 -7; 978 -1 -4836 -8851 -0; and 978 -1 -4836 -8853 -4. In addition, you can go to www.Xlibris.com for more information.

Leaf Man by *Lois Ehlert*

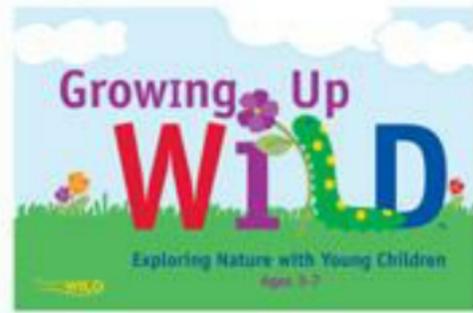


With the brightly colored pages filled with leaves, this book is one that should be in every child’s library. As fall comes, leaves change colors and fall to the ground. Where does a Leaf Man go when the wind blows? As the wind picks up, the Leaf Man begins his travels. He heads east over the marsh, the ducks, and the geese. Then he moves on to the fields of fall vegetables. As he drifts to the west, Leaf Man goes over the prairie meadows and then drifts to the north. This story allows for discussion on where the Leaf Man goes and how the wind takes him on his adventure.

The book has imprints of a variety of leaves, yes, real leaf prints, along with die-cut pages that create landscapes that even adults will appreciate. In addition, leaf prints are identified for the reader and there is a note from the author to the reader.

Ages 4 – 8; Published by Harcourt, Inc.; ISBN: 0 -15 -205304 -2.

Growing Up WILD by Council for Environmental Education, Project WILD



When you receive your Growing Up WILD Activity Guide, and open it, you will see brightly colored pages that consider both the educator and the student. The 11"x17" activity guide is designed to build on children's sense of wonder about nature and encourages them to explore the world around them, including wildlife.

The guide features 27 hands-on activities with over 400 different experiences for young children that have been correlated to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation Standards and the Head Start Domains. The activities may include outdoor explorations, scientific inquiry, art projects, music and movement, conservation activities, reading and math connections, literacy connections, and a section titled "Healthy Me".

Each activity has multiple components that will provide educators with a variety of teaching styles while meeting the needs of the children. Quick Facts, key vocabulary words, materials needed, how to prepare for the activity, step-by-step procedures and wrap-up are included in each activity. In addition, the activity will address how to take children outside; ideas for centers and extensions, snacks, and connecting with the adults at home. A sidebar is included in each activity that can be used as a quick reference providing correlations to the NAEYC standards, Head Start Domains, resources (fiction/non-fiction books, and websites), and age level of the activity.

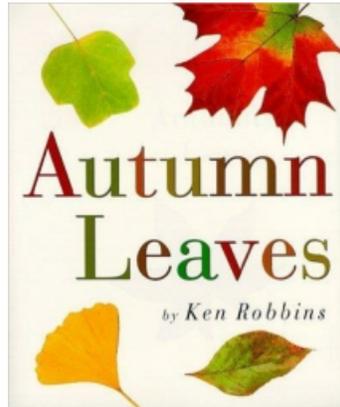
The guide includes ideas and suggestions on connecting children to nature, developmentally appropriate practice, Nature Play, how to spark creativity, assessment, the importance of respecting living things, responsible collecting and safety. The appendices include, but not limited to, copy me pages, state symbols, tips for teachers, and how to incorporate wildlife into holiday celebrations. The guide provides a listing of children's books that are used within the different activities and experiences for a quick glance. There are also on-line resources to support the educator including guide resources, education links and reports, and meeting the educators' needs.

Growing Up WILD is a multi-award winning program having received the 2009 Family Choice Award and the 2011 Renewable Natural Resource Foundation Excellence in Journalism Award.

To obtain a copy of the guide, you may either attend a Growing Up WILD workshop or purchase the guide directly. For more information, go to <http://www.projectwild.org/growingupwild.htm>

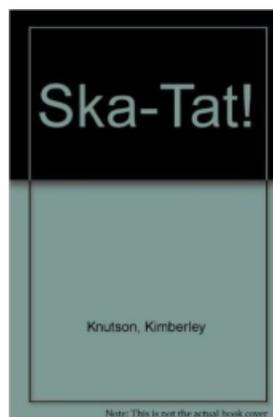
Ages 3 -7; Published by Council for Environmental Education.

Autumn Leaves by *Ken Robbins*



The perfect combination of striking photographs displaying a broad array of trees in their natural settings, paired together with close-up views of actual leaves from the tree. This visual feast provides a pleasing context in which to deliver the accompanying description of the tree, its leaves, and seeds. This book offers a unique autumn portrait of twelve varieties of trees showcasing them in the splendor of their changing colors. In addition, Robbins provides the reader with a brief description of each tree and its leaves – a simplistic nature guide – perfect for the young naturalist. Concluding pages provide young readers with a descriptive explanation of photosynthesis and the processes that occur in the leaves producing the changes in color and the eventual separation of the leaves from the branches. This book offers features that make it the perfect companion for fall nature walks and a guide to leaf identification and collection. Ages 3 -8. Scholastic, 1998. ISBN -10:0590298798, 40 pages.

Ska- tat! by *Kimberley Knutson*



Knutson's tribute to both fall leaves and the playful sounds of children as they catch the falling leaves, rake them into mountainous heaps of glorious fun. A virtual smorgasbord for the senses, she orchestrates the use of onomatopoeia in order to entice children into the story and provide them with the sensory stimulation that whisks them away to play along with the children in the story. Using cut-paper collages as her artistic medium, she combines the earthy tones of the dried leaves with splashes of bold colors that catch the eye of the reader and positions her images on a stark white canvas to intensify the effect of the contrasting hues. The leaves come to life as Knutson likens them to dancers in a ballet, turning, diving, and dropping to the ground. She brings to life all the exhilarating activities children love to engage in with leaves and inspires young children to replicate these activities – kicking, stomping, jumping, and throwing leaves in their own backyards. Ages 3 -8. Macmillan Publishing, 1993. ISBN 0 -02 -750846 -3, 32 pages.