

INFANT

Week

27

Smart Activities



SMART CHOICE. SMARTER CHILD.®

Cat in the Tree: Baby Hold

Instructions:

1. Hold baby facing downwards along one arm with head by elbow.
2. Use your arm to support baby's weight.
3. Use your other hand to support baby's weight and gently massage the back.



Photo credit: UpAllHours.com

I Love Fall

by Alison Inches

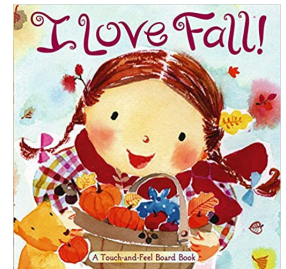
Materials: wooly material, smooth apple, aluminum pie tin, dry leaves, internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/DEUT18PDXas>

Preparation: Preview video.

Instructions:

1. Help your baby feel the different textures as they are mentioned in the story.
2. Talk about the way they feel and describe what you are doing.



“Little Robin Redbreast” Rhyme

Preparation: Hold your baby in the Cat in the Tree position.

Instructions:

Recite the poem while gently rocking baby:

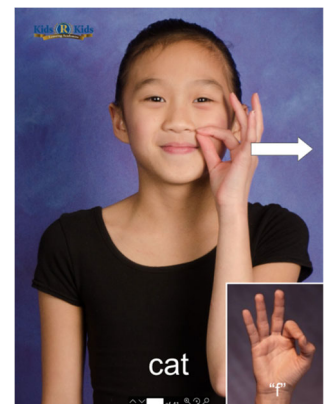
Little robin redbreast sat upon a tree,
Up went pussy cat and down went he.
Down came pussy cat and away robin ran,
Says little robin redbreast, "Catch me if you can."



Sign Language: Cat

Instructions:

1. Place the index fingers and thumbs of the dominant hand under the nose with palms out then move outward sideways as if pulling whiskers.
2. When you see a cat, use the sign language for the word.



Outside Exploration

Instructions:

1. Take your baby outside.
2. Talk about the weather, season, leaves, and describe what you are doing.
3. If possible, collect leaves to touch.
4. Describe the texture of the leaves and the sounds that can be heard.
5. Watch baby's reaction and describe what he/she is doing. Collect leaves and a small branch.
6. Wash baby's hands after activity.



Autumn Mobile

Materials: leaves, string/yarn, scissors, small branch, hook for hanging

Preparation: Gather materials.

Instructions:

1. Create a leaf mobile using different lengths of yarn and tying the leaves to the branch.
2. Hang in an area where your baby can practice reaching for it.



Image: <https://www.soul-flower.com/blog/diy-autumn-leaf-mobile/>

Pull the String

Materials: 6-inch piece of yarn

Preparation: Make sure yarn is shorter than 6 inches for safety.

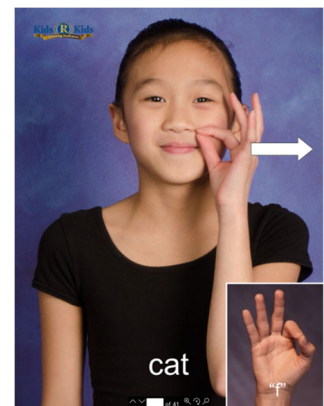
Instructions:

1. Hold the piece of yarn just out of baby's reach.
2. Say, "Look! I have a piece of yarn that is (name the color)."
3. Wiggle the yarn and encourage your baby to reach for it.
4. Put the yarn on the ground and help your baby grab it.

Sign Language: Cat

Instructions:

1. Place the index fingers and thumbs of the dominant hand under the nose with palms out then move outward sideways as if pulling whiskers.
2. When you see a cat, use the sign language for the word.



Counting Leaves

Materials: five leaves

Preparation: Arrange the leaves on the floor.

Instructions:

Count the leaves and help your baby touch each one as you count.



Mouse's First Fall

by Lauren Thompson

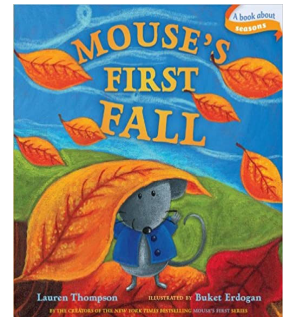
Materials: internet access, website:

https://youtu.be/TQkjm_vcYs

Preparation: Preview video.

Instructions:

Use the words: "Tumbling," "Twirling," "Pretty," "Round," "Pointy," "Ran," "Skipped," "Kicked," "Jumped," "Rolled," and "Whee" while you are describing the story.



Raising My Head

Preparation: Place baby on his/her tummy. Have the leaves from the counting activity. Tummy exercises help promote muscle and brain development.

Instructions:

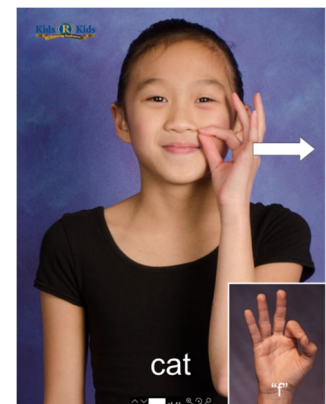
1. Hold two leaves just above your baby's head and brush them against each other to make a scratching noise.
2. Describe what you are doing as you show your baby the leaves and encourage him/her to lift her head.



Sign Language: Cat

Instructions:

1. Place the index fingers and thumbs of the dominant hand under the nose with palms out then move outward sideways as if pulling whiskers.
2. When you see a cat, use the sign language for the word.



Painting with Nature

Materials: water-based paint, leaves, natural materials, paper, paper plate, camera

Preparation: Gather materials. Put a few dollops of paint on the paper plate.

Instructions:

1. Help your baby experiment with art by painting with unexpected materials.
2. Help your baby dip the leaves into the paint and smear it onto the paper.
3. Talk about the different materials being used, describe the colors, and how each one makes you feel.
4. Help your baby make a few different versions.
5. Take a few pictures of your baby doing the activity.
6. Let the leaves dry with paint on them.

Leaves Collage

Materials: dried leaves used for painting with nature activity, pictures of family members, tape, paper

Preparation: Gather materials. Print out photos.

Instructions:

1. Help your baby tape the leaves and pictures onto the construction paper.
2. Talk about what you are doing.
3. Describe the textures, colors, and names of family members.

Autumn is Here – Jazz Lullabies

Materials: internet access, website: <https://youtu.be/fG6C8epwyBU>

Preparation: Preview video.

Instructions:

Play the music while swaying and dancing with baby.



Sign Language: Cat

Instructions:

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2. When you see a cat, use the sign language for the word.



Scratchy Sounds

Materials: different scraps of paper: tissue paper, newspaper, magazines, wrapping paper

Preparation: Building sound awareness and understanding develops listening skills.

Instructions:

1. Encourage your baby to grasp the paper and crumple it up.
2. Talk about the different sounds you hear.



Hopalong Peter

Materials: internet access, website:

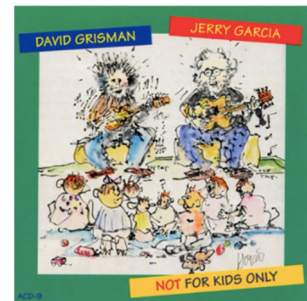
<https://youtu.be/0ftMIYUuzFo>

Preparation: Preview the old folksong song, Hopalong Peter performed by Jerry Garcia and David Grisman. Lyrics can be found here:

<https://genius.com/Jerry-garcia-and-david-grisman-hopalong-peter-lyrics>

Instructions:

Sing along to the song while dancing with your baby.



Falling Leaves

Materials: box of tissues

Instructions:

1. Let your baby sit on the floor while you drop a tissue from above.
2. Talk about how it falls gently and silently to the floor.
3. Let your baby take a tissue from the box. Help him/her wave it in the air while you talk about how leaves fall off the trees onto the ground.

Sign Language: Cat

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