

What to do with kids on a rainy day

5 autumn inspired activities



Autumn inspirations

The fall season is here and the days are getting shorter, colder and there is a lot of rain coming our way (especially in Ireland!) but our toddler didn't get the memo and keeps looking for stimulating activities to get him busy! If you have an active toddler at home you probably spent most of your summer days outside, going for walks, getting him tired and burning his energy. This may prove a little bit more tricky now when the temperature drops down and there will be more rain. Personally I love Autumn with my kids as it brings so many wonderful opportunities for so many educational activities! The way I prepare for the long, cold evenings is by getting out every time the weather is nice and bringing some wonderful nature treasures back, that I will use when there is nothing else to do.

In this short article I will give you a few examples of activities that you can do at home to keep your little ones not only busy but also teaching them through fun and by using only natural resources.

1. Nature treasure hunt



When the weather is still nice use this time to go for a treasure hunt. Autumn has so many things to offer and they are all so interesting for a curious little brain. Pick up leaves, sticks, chestnuts, acorns, pine cones and bring them all home.

You can use them for so many things! Use them for counting, for learning colours, teach new vocabulary, make arts and crafts with them, use them for imaginary play such as prepare a chestnut soup in the play kitchen etc

2. Leaf print arts and crafts

Use the leaves that you have collected during your walks, to make beautiful leaf print art! Use autumn colours to create beautiful designs. You will need paint and some large sheets of paper.

You can do it in two different ways: you could paint the leaf and then press it firmly onto the page- it will leave a lovely print. You could decorate a tree this way or just have an abstract design. The other way is to stick leaves onto a page and roller paint over them so the whole page is coloured just the shape of the leaves is left white. Beautiful decoration for your house, easy to make and your child will be very proud of their work!



3. Autumn arts and crafts

If you have a piece of paper and some glue- you are all set to create some fantastic art pieces by using the treasures that you have collected. You can show your child few examples when you draw part of the picture and then you use the leaves and sticks to create some funny faces or animals etc. This activity helps the children to develop their creative thinking and imagination and of course while they are creating they improve their concentration, hand and eye coordination and fine motor skills



4. Early maths

Use the collected treasures for teaching maths. Play together counting chestnuts and leaves, you can get some numbers written on a card and ask your child to match the right amount of leaves/stick/chestnuts to the number. You could draw little squirrels and each squirrel will have a number on his belly- this is the amount of acorns he needs to eat, can you feed the squirrels etc :)



5. Language development

Go to the park and collect as many leaves as possible. Talk about the different colours and about the leaves falling. This is a great opportunity to work on language and broadening the child's vocabulary and their understanding about the world. Throw all leaves up in the air and watch your toddler giggle! This is a great time to teach a song about falling leaves (to the tune of are you sleeping brother john)

Leaves are falling

leaves are falling

All around

All around

yellow, red and orange

Yellow red and orange

Down to the ground

down to the ground

