



2-3
years

5-30
mins

Outdoor
Play

- Clear activity descriptions
- Suggested age range
- Activity duration
- When/where to play
- Developmental focus
- Safety information

Lots of Leaves

Your toddler will love getting amongst piles of autumn leaves. (He'll want to throw them about and sit in the piles, so be prepared for a bit of a mess!)

- Ask your toddler to help you fill a box with leaves.
- Talk about colours and shapes.
- Make a game of carrying and emptying the box to where you bag or compost the leaves.

Parks that have mature trees are fun to visit in the autumn. Your toddler will enjoy bringing leaves home to show other family members.



Toddler Safety

- Put shoes and socks on your toddler before this kind of outdoor play.
- Use a rake or stick to check for spiders or other dangerous things in old piles of leaves.

Turn over for more...

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A Growing & Moving Activity

Card 9

The smells, crunching noises, colours, textures and shapes of leaves are irresistible to toddlers. When your child helps you clean up leaves, he will need to use both large and small muscles as he:

- bends and twists
- runs and jumps
- lifts and throws
- uses his hands to fill the box.

If you use a rake or tip a box of leaves into a garden bag, he will want to mimic your actions. But his actions will not be as controlled as yours, so he'll need your help. Give very simple directions such as: 'Help me lift this big box' or 'Tip the leaves out here'.

What your toddler will care most about is that you are picking up leaves together and that you value his help. These kinds of experiences build positive self-esteem.

This is also an opportunity to chat casually and for your toddler to learn to 'take turns in conversation'.



Activity Links

Other Growing & Moving activities: **Kitchen-in-a-Bath** (Card 1) and **Basketball Socks** (Card 5).

Toddler Skills

- Small & large muscle development
- Mimicking
- Following directions
- Self-esteem
- Conversation

What Else?

- Take turns playing a game of 'raining leaves', dropping leaves on each other's head.
- Play a pretend game of 'burying' each other in leaves, popping out to surprise each other.
- Sing a song or rhyme such as: 'Like a leaf or feather in the windy, windy weather, we will twirl about and whirl about, and all fall down together'.
- Show your toddler how to make colour piles (red leaves in one pile, green in another, etc.).
- Give your toddler boxes and old blankets and help him build a cubby house near where you are working.



- Early childhood development information
- Links to other PlayPower Cards
- Learning Skills
- More ideas and games
- Rhymes
- Parent tips