

Parents and Guardians,

The fall season provides many opportunities for families to plan fun activities and outings. Whether picking out a pumpkin or collecting colorful leaves, these family events can help children apply the skills they learn in school to practical situations in every day life. Below are just a few ways that you can incorporate math skills into your family activities.

Pumpkin Patch

Take your child to a pumpkin patch. Help your child describe the different pumpkins for sale using words such as small, medium, and large. Then compare the pumpkins. Is the first pumpkin your child picked up larger or smaller than the second pumpkin? Which pumpkin in the entire patch is the largest? Which one is the smallest? If marked, have your child read the prices on each pumpkin. Which pumpkins are more expensive? Which ones are less expensive?



Extension Activities:
Count the pumpkin seeds.
Sort the seeds by size.
Toast the seeds.
Make a pumpkin pie.

Gathering Leaves

Take a walk in the park, at your child's school, or in your yard. Collect leaves that have fallen on the ground. What color are they? How many points are on each leaf? Estimate how many leaves are under each tree. Estimate how many leaves still have to fall off the tree. Gather a small bag of leaves for further activities at home.



Extension Activities
Count how many leaves were collected.
Sort the leaves by color, shape, leaf points, or size.
Count how many leaves are in each sorted pile.
Make a leaf collection by pressing or sealing in contact paper.

Falling Temperatures

Have your child use a thermometer to read the temperature at your house. Keep a record of what the temperature is at the same time every day for a month. Compare the daily temperatures to each other. Was yesterday colder than today? Which day was coldest during the month?



Extension Activities:
Chart the daily temperature.
Compare your temperature to the temperature in other places in your state, in the country, or around the world.

Fun and learning can go together year round, and many skills besides math can be practiced at home. Your child can write poetry about the leaves, the taste of pumpkin seeds, or the chill in the air. He/she can create a fall photo album, a fall journal, or a collection of drawings. Or your child can simply enjoy the time spent with family.