

~After the children are in bed, make generous batches of sugar cookie dough. Tint in various fall colors. Cut out with leaf shaped cookie cutters and bake. Once cool, wrap individual cookies in plastic baggies and tie with ribbon. Hide them around the house. The following day, read the children a fall story. Afterwards tell the children that while they were asleep during the night, leaves began to fall all over the house and need to be cleaned up before Dad comes home. Give them each a little basket or bucket and have them go on a scavenger hunt to find all the cookies. Let them have the cookies after meals for the next several days until all are gone.

~Send your children on an outdoor fall scavenger hunt for different colored leaves, acorns, pine cones, hickory nuts, fungi, bark, cedar berries, pine needles, persimmons, apples...Assign the number of objects each child is to find according to age and/or ability. Hand each child a list of the items they must find. For those who cannot read, draw pictures of the items they need to find.

~As a family, go on a fall nature walk to collect fall objects like the ones above. When you return, make collages of all your treasures by gluing them to cardboard or poster board covered with a pretty fall colored piece of construction paper.

~Look in the Halloween section of your neighborhood store for plastic hunting knives to play Davy Crockett, crowns for playing King David, medieval costumes for playing knights, cowboy hats, badges, fringed vests for playing cowboys...

~*Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day* is undoubtedly one of my favorite Pooh movies. Okay, maybe I really like them all. No, I love all Winnie the Pooh books and movies, but for the sake of this autumnal season, I am recommending watching this particular one. Then with a quilt, thermos of hot tea, cookies (those leaf shaped cookies mentioned above would be absolutely perfect), Winnie the Pooh, Piglet, and Tigger (stuffed animals, of course) and several Winnie the Pooh books—sit, sip, sup, and read under some great magnificent overarching tree whose leaves have turned their most vibrant color. Then when you are done, have everyone lie on their backs and look up at the leaves on your tree as you all say the following:

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“Hum for a Blustery Day”

From *Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day*

Written by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman

Performed by Sterling Holloway [Pooh]

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Hum dum dum ditty dum dum dum

Oh the wind is lashing lustily

And the trees are thrashing thrustily

And the leaves are rustling gustily

So it’s rather safe to say

That it seems that it may turn out to be

It feels that it will undoubtedly

It looks like a rather blustery day, today

It sounds that it may turn out to be

Feels that it will undoubtedly

Looks like a rather blustery day today.