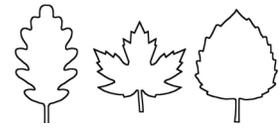




# PIGS, PRINTS, & PONY BEADS



**LEAF RUBBING:** Make a print using leaves and crayons

**INCLUDED MATERIALS:**

- Paper
- Crayons

**MATERIALS NOT INCLUDED:**

- Leaves



Images: FirstPalette.com

1. Collect leaves of various shapes and sizes. You can use fresh leaves or dried leaves, but dried leaves will be more delicate than fresh ones.
2. Place a leaf with the veiny side facing up and then cover it with the paper.
3. Rub the side of a crayon gently over the area where the leaf is. As you rub the texture of the leaf will begin to appear.

*FOR CAREGIVERS: This activity encourages youth to get outside and interact with nature. You can talk with your child(ren) about texture and shape (Which leaves are round and which are pointy? Which leaves are brown?). You can also use this as an opportunity to talk with your child about how trees change with the seasons. Next time you are in the library ask for books about leaves and trees at the Children's Desk or visit the +580s in nonfiction.*



**PONY BEADING:** Use the provided pony beads and pipe cleaners to make a bead project.

1. Before stringing the beads, bend the end of your pipe cleaner up onto itself to make a nob so the beads don't fall off.

2. String your beads.

- Patterns: Practice patterns while stringing beads. You could alternate colors, finishes (opaque, transparent, glitter), shapes, or material. *What other patterns can you make?*
- Sorting: Sort your beads by shape, size, or color. *What other ways can you sort the beads?*
- Counting: Count how many bead you have. *How many beads of a certain color do you have? How many other ways can you count your beads?*



3. After you finish stringing the beads you can twist the ends of the pipe cleaner together to make a bracelet or decoration. You could also choose to take the beads off the pipe cleaner and then put them back on in a different order or pattern.



*FOR CAREGIVERS: Stringing beads gives young children the opportunity to build fine motor skills, especially pinching, grasping, and hand-eye coordination. Pipe cleaners make it easier for young children by providing a firmer "string".*

Images: Mama.Papa.Bubba

**LETTER TREASURE HUNT:** In this activity you will look for letters in the alphabet

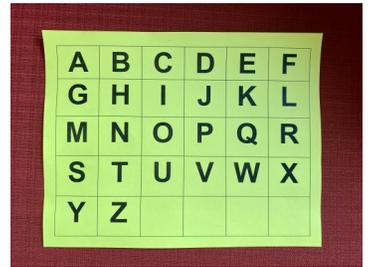
1. Cut apart the provided sheet of paper with the alphabet on it. You can also choose to write out the alphabet yourself on post-it notes. If you are multilingual, an additional alphabet can be written out on the reverse side of the paper.
2. Have your caregiver hide the letters in different hiding spots. You can choose to play this game indoors or outside.
3. Bring each letter to your caregiver as you find them. Ask your caregiver the name of each letter and what sound it makes, or tell your caregiver if you know.
4. Can you find all the hidden letters?



*FOR CAREGIVERS: This activity encourages letter recognition and for your child(ren) to get active.*

**YOU CAN PLAY DIFFERENT VARIATIONS OF LETTER TREASURE HUNT:**

- If your child(ren) is learning their name, try hiding just the letters in their name.
- You could hide just the vowels.
- Have your child draw a picture of an object that starts with each letter on the reverse side of the paper.
- Hide the letters that are only made up of straight lines.



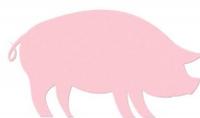
**STORYTELLING:** You don't have to read to tell a story! Telling your caregiver a story is a great way to strengthen your literacy skills.

1. Read *The Three Little Pigs* (there are many versions of the story at the library, or you can find one online).
2. Construct the three pigs using the provided paper pieces. Each pig has a body, small legs (front end), large legs (back end), and ears. Slot the pieces together to make a 3D figure.
3. Gather materials (Legos, twigs, rocks, blocks, books work well) to build three different structures in which the provided paper pigs can live.
4. Tell your own version of the story. You can role-play the big, bad wolf and try to blow down the structures they built, or maybe you will decide to play a friendly wolf!



*FOR CAREGIVERS: Additional story telling activities;*

- Use found objects in nature to tell a story.
- Use the paper bag the activity materials came in, place objects into the bag to make a "storytelling bag" and have your child(ren) pull items out of the bag and tell a story about them.
- Using a paper bag, draw a map with your child(ren) and use it to tell a story. It could be a map of a park, city, neighborhood, building, or someplace of the imagination.
- Ask your child(ren) to tell you a story using the pictures in a book. It could be a book your child(ren) is familiar with or a new one.



**A**

**G**

**M**

**S**

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**B**

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**X**

