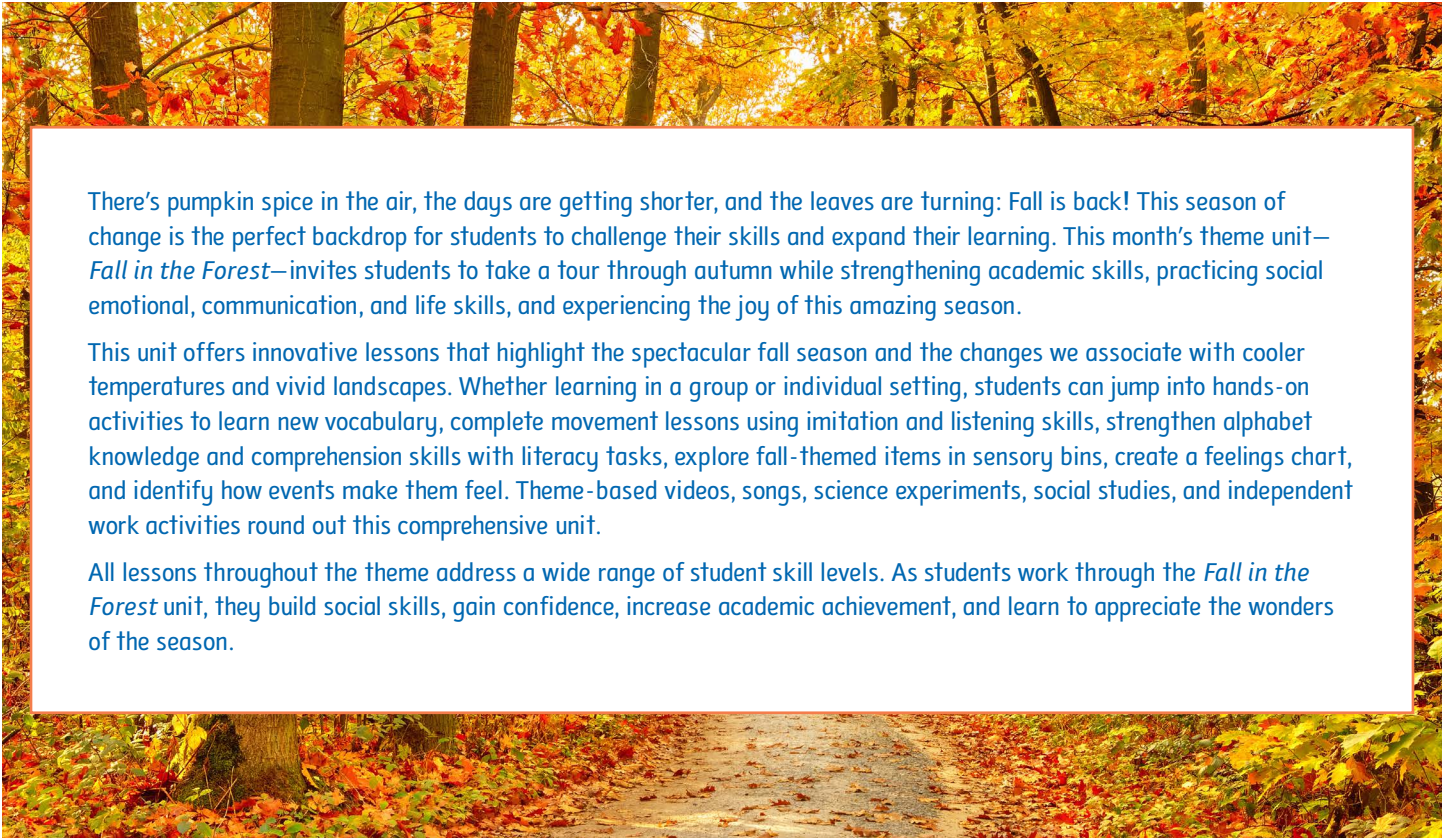




# Fall in the Forest

## Newsletter



There's pumpkin spice in the air, the days are getting shorter, and the leaves are turning: Fall is back! This season of change is the perfect backdrop for students to challenge their skills and expand their learning. This month's theme unit—*Fall in the Forest*—invites students to take a tour through autumn while strengthening academic skills, practicing social emotional, communication, and life skills, and experiencing the joy of this amazing season.

This unit offers innovative lessons that highlight the spectacular fall season and the changes we associate with cooler temperatures and vivid landscapes. Whether learning in a group or individual setting, students can jump into hands-on activities to learn new vocabulary, complete movement lessons using imitation and listening skills, strengthen alphabet knowledge and comprehension skills with literacy tasks, explore fall-themed items in sensory bins, create a feelings chart, and identify how events make them feel. Theme-based videos, songs, science experiments, social studies, and independent work activities round out this comprehensive unit.

All lessons throughout the theme address a wide range of student skill levels. As students work through the *Fall in the Forest* unit, they build social skills, gain confidence, increase academic achievement, and learn to appreciate the wonders of the season.

## Caregiver Connection Corner

### Life skills: Change it out

- When it's time to put away the shorts and tank tops, have your child take their summer clothes out of their drawers and replace them with warmer pants and sweaters. Point out clothing featuring fall colors and/or ask your child to say the color name.

### Go on a nature walk

- This theme unit teaches students to watch and appreciate the seasonal changes around them. Take a walk with the goal of observing the landscape and wildlife in the fall. Label what you see in simple language, such as "I see leaves!" and encourage your child to copy your words or answer a question about what you saw.
- Practice safety skills outdoors by giving your child one-step directions such as "walk with me," "stop," and "wait." Give behavior-specific praise (e.g., "good job walking") to let your child know that they are showing positive behaviors on the walk.
- To find free Behavior Support Icons for "stop," "walk," and "wait," go to [starautismsupport.com](http://starautismsupport.com), click on Free Home Supports, select the Home Supports tab, and then select Supporting Positive Behavior.

### It's a picnic!

- Enjoy the cooler weather by having a picnic at a local park, followed by opportunities to burn off excess energy on a park trail or playground.
- Involve your child in the preparation for the picnic by providing one-step directions, such as "get the sandwich," and encourage your child to follow directions as independently as possible.
- Consider making a simple fall-themed treat to complement the meal, such as trail mix with candy corn or ginger cookies.
- Encourage your child to notice animals at the picnic and describe their actions, such as eating or climbing a tree.

# Theme Unit Vocabulary

**Seasonal change:** Brown, Cool, Fall, Leaves, Orange, Purple, Red, Windy, Yellow

**Forest habitats:** Acorn, Berries, Den, Grass, Nest, Nuts, Pine Cone, Seeds, Trail, Tree

**Forest animals:** Badger, Bat, Bear, Beaver, Deer, Fox, Hedgehog, Mouse, Owl, Rabbit, Squirrel, Wolf

**Taking a walk in fall:** Boots, Jacket, Pants, Shoes, Sweatshirt, Walk

## What We Are Learning About Forests

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attention and listening: "Simon Says"</li><li>• Literacy: Sorting animals and homes and writing vocabulary words</li><li>• Life skills: Identifying feelings</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Math: Fall patterns</li><li>• Music and movement</li><li>• Social studies: Exploring landforms</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social emotional: Creating an emotions chart</li><li>• Forest-themed cooking recipes</li><li>• Science: Learning about habitats</li></ul> |
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## Note From the Teacher