

## The Big Leaf Pile

By Teacher Lee

The Brown family was on the way to visit their grandparents and it was a long drive. The two children had been sitting in the car for a long time and were growing tired of being in the small space. "Are we there yet?" asked Michael.

"No" said Daddy, "there is still a long way to go."

"I know," said Mom "lets stop for a while and stretch our legs."

Daddy found a safe place to stop and the children were very happy to get out of the car for a little while.

"Lets have a picnic lunch while we are here" said mom

"YAY" shouted the children together because they really loved having picnics.

"Michael go with Andrea and play on the grass under that tree while we are getting ready" said Daddy.

Off the children ran happy to be stretching their legs. When they reached the tree they found so many beautiful colored leaves on the ground. There were big ones and small ones, some were red, some were yellow and some were brown.

"Oh what fun," said Andrea, "listen to the leaves, they are crackling under our feet."

The children scooped up as many leaves as they could and made a leaf pile in the middle of the grass. They did this over and over until the pile was huge!

Michael had a different idea, he picked up a handful of leaves and threw them into the air. The wind caught the leaves and tossed them around before they landed on the ground again. Before long both children were laughing while they threw the leaves into the air and watched them as they fell back to the ground.

"Lunch is ready" called Mom and the children ran back to their parents.

"You Kids looked like you were enjoying yourself," said Daddy, "we could hear you laughing from here."

"We did have fun playing in the leaves," said Michael.

"Yes, we did!" exclaimed Andrea as she began to eat her lunch.



## **Fall leaf placemat.**

Before you begin gather all the materials and prepare your work surface.

### **Things You'll Need:**

Leaves

Clear Contact Paper

Glitter (optional)



### **8 Easy steps to a beautiful place mat**

1. Collect leaves on a nature walk or in your garden.
2. Cut the contact paper into two equal pieces about a foot in length.
3. Carefully peel the backing paper off one piece of contact paper and lay it on the table sticky side up.
4. Take the leaves you found on your walk and lay them in a design on the sticky side of the contact paper.
5. Sprinkle a little glitter on the leaves if desired
6. Stick the second piece of contact paper over the first sealing the leaves in the contact paper
7. Press down to smooth the place mat.
8. Trim the edges with a scissors, or fancy craft scissors for a fun effect.

You will have loads of fun finding the perfect leaves and creating beautiful place mats with your child and they make great holiday gifts as well. Just remember to have fun and make an effort to do something special with your child every day.

Teacher Lee