Things to do together

- Gather some leaves from outside. Discuss the similarities and differences between the leaves. Examining alike and different helps develop the skills that will be needed to recognize letters and distinguish phonetic sounds.
- Put the leaves under blank sheets of paper and rub crayons over the paper. Label or name the leaves and hang the rubbings up in the house.
- Sit looking out a window together. Encourage your child to tell you what they see. Think about colors, texture, wildlife, city life etc.
- Talk about the fact that Autumn has another name, Fall. See how many words you can think of that rhyme with Fall. Write these down on a sheet of paper.
- Discuss the weather with your child. Is it cold? Is it wet? Are the clothes we wear different in the Autumn than in the Summer? Put on summer clothes and go outside. What did you feel?
- Make up a rhyming poem about Autumn together. Post this next to the leaf rubbings.

Rhymes And Fingerplays

Leaves are Falling
Leaves are falling all around
Falling softly to the ground
Falling, falling, falling down
(twinkle your hands as you slowly fall to the ground)

Way up High in the Apple Tree
Way up high in the apple tree
(stretch arms above head, make two fists)
Two little apples were smiling at me
(wiggle fists)
I shook that tree as hard as I could
(Mime shaking a tree trunk)
Down came the apples
(Mime picking up an apple)
Mmmm...were they good!
(Rub tummy)

Five Little Leaves
Five little leaves so bright and gay
(Hold up five fingers.)
Were dancing about on a tree one day.
(Dance in place.)
The wind came blowing through the town,
(Sway with the wind.)
And one little leaf came tumbling down.
(Gently tumble to the ground.)

Four little leaves...(then continue to zero)

Autumn Labor
My poor back will surely break,
(Rub back; make face as if in pain.)
If one more leaf I have to rake!
(Hold up one finger; make raking motions.)
Crusty, rusty brown leaves,
Dusty, blustery red leaves,
Crunching, bunching, scrunching beneath my feet.
(Walk in place.)
In a pile of crispy leaves, I'll find a welcome seat!
(Sit down on floor.)