

Holiday Helps

Ideas for Early Childhood Classrooms

Fall is a wonderful season for exploring God's creation—and for giving thanks to Him. Use this fun craft to encourage the children you teach to praise and thank God for His world and the blessings He gives so bountifully.

Fall Tree Bags

What You'll Need

- large brown grocery bags
- crayons and markers (optional: acrylic craft paint and paintbrushes)
- leaves (real, artificial, or cut from colorful paper)
- glue

What to Do

1. Lay a closed paper bag on a workspace with the open end at the top. Have a child lay an arm and a hand (with fingers spread) on the sack with the elbow at the bottom of the sack. Trace around the child's arm and hand three times, creating three tree trunks with branches growing from them.
2. Color (or paint) the tree trunks and branches.
3. Glue on leaves using real, artificial, or precut leaf shapes.

Children can use their bags in different ways throughout the season.

- Take a walk outdoors and use the bags to collect samples of God's creation.
- Use the bags as "Sharing Bags." Send a note home telling parents you are filling the bags with gently-used toys, books, or clothes. The items will be given to children who need them. Or use the bags to collect canned goods for a local charity.

Another Idea!

After drawing and making the tree trunks from grocery sacks, cut out the trees and use them as a bulletin board border in your classroom. Ask children to name people or things for which they are thankful. Print on the leaves or tree trunks the things children name.



1



2



3