

Activities to Support Conceptual Understanding

Autumn Colors

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Color & Object Match:

Provide real objects that match the book's colors (orange pumpkin, green apple, yellow leaf, red feather for cardinal, brown acorn). Encourage students to touch, smell, and explore each one. Use rich verbal descriptions:

- *"The pumpkin feels round and smooth with a hard stem sticking up."*
- *"The apple is cool, round, and smooth, with a tiny dimple at the top where the stem grows."*

Match each object to its color word card in print, Braille, or tactile symbols.

Tactile: Feel smooth skin, bumpy stem, flat leaf.

Smell: Apple's sweet scent, dry smell of leaves.

Verbal: *"This apple has a dimple with a short stem."*

Sound & Motion Connections:

Pair each autumn object with a sound or movement.

Audio: Pumpkin = hollow tap, apple = crunch, leaf = crinkle, bird = chirp.

Movement: Flap wings, jump, roll acorn.

Verbal Descriptions: *"The acorn is small, hard, with a cap and stem."*

- **Pumpkin:** tap it and listen to the hollow sound.
- **Apple:** take a bite or snap it open to hear the crunch.
- **Leaf:** crinkle it for a crunchy sound.
- **Cardinal:** play a recording of a bird call, flap arms like wings.
- **Acorn:** roll it on a tray or drop it into a tin for a clink.

These sound/motion cues deepen conceptual links and support memory.

Texture Detective:

Guide students to describe salient features through touch and words:

Tactile: Hard shell of acorn, soft feathers, smooth apple.

Verbal: Prompt comparisons: “Which feels smoother? Which is rougher?”

- Pumpkins → round, thick skin, hard stem.
- Apples → smooth, dimpled, firm.
- Leaves → flat, thin, stem, veins.
- Birds → feathers, wings, beak, claws.
- Acorns → small, hard shell, cap with stem.

Encourage comparing and contrasting features—smooth vs rough, flat vs round.

Multi-Sensory Leaf Collage:

Provide textured materials in the same colors (orange felt, green foam, yellow foil, red feathers, brown sandpaper). Students can glue them to cards labeled in print/Braille, reinforcing both color vocabulary and tactile associations.

Parent Tip: Use real objects alongside verbal descriptions. Encourage your child to listen, touch, and act out what they are learning to build stronger connections.

About these Materials

These activities build on strategies shared by teachers of students with visual impairments, families, and organizations such as Perkins School for the Blind and Paths to Literacy.