

LEAF IT BEHIND!

CREATING LEAF PUPPETS TO TALK ABOUT CHANGES.



Grade: K+

Month: September

Lesson Focus and Goals:

Sometimes things in our life change. We move away. Our parents separate. We stop talking to our best friends. Or maybe we just learn to like a new food. We are always going through different changes. Oftentimes, big changes can be scary. But even the big changes can be fun and exciting if we let them. Look at the seasons, they change every year and with each new season comes a new exciting adventure. It's important that we talk about changes and how we can embrace them for the better.

Materials Needed:

- Leaves from outside (or use our leaf print out)
- Popsicle sticks
- Markers
- Googly Eyes
- Glue
- Hot Glue

Learning Objectives:

- What is change?
- Why are some changes harder to deal with than others?
- Is change a bad thing or a good thing?
- Why is change important?

Structure / Activity:

Step One: Head outdoors and find the perfect leaves of different shapes, colors, and sizes. Or print our leaf handout and cut out the leaves you want to use.

Step Two: Using regular glue, attach the googly eyes to your leaf (You can use markers to draw them on if you don't have access to googly eyes)

Step Three: Use the markers to add additional features to your leaf like a smile or a growl.

Step Four: Color your popsicle stick a fun color! Up to you how you want it to match your leaf.

Step Five: Use the hot glue (or have an adult assist you) to attach the leaf to your popsicle stick, turning it into a puppet. If you do not have popsicle sticks, you can attach your leaf to a strip of paper and fold it around your finger as a finger puppet!

Step Six: Use the puppet to tell a story about a time when you changed. Did you start a new sport? Move away to a new town or neighborhood? Lose a friend or make a new one? Have your leafy buddy tell the story!

Take Aways:

Fall is a time of a lot of changes. We start back to school, get new classes, learn new subjects. The seasons change, bringing new weather patterns and oftentimes cooler air. And for much of the country, the leaves begin to fall from the trees, filling our streets and sidewalks with their crunchy sounds. Much like the changing of the seasons, we find ourselves experiencing a lot of moments in our lives where it seems like everything is in an upheaval around us. And while sometimes are first instinct it to panic, it's important to remember to look for the good things change can bring. Making new friends, exploring new places, experiencing new adventures. Take a moment each day to find the beauty in your changes, just as we do in the leaves all around us.



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