

# Wee R Kids Provider News – September 2010

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September 2010  
Provider Newsletter



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## Upcoming Statutory Holidays

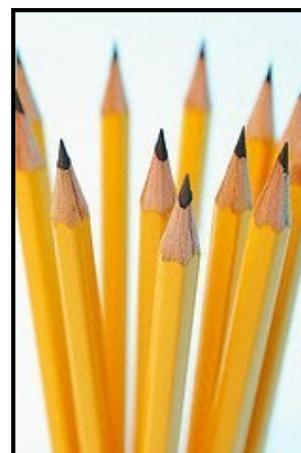
### Labour Day September 6, 2010

Providers receive this day  
off and the office will be  
closed on this day.

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday ~ Friday  
8:00am ~ 4:30pm

Dear Providers:

*"Don't you love New York in the fall? It makes me want to buy school supplies. I would send you a bouquet of newly-sharpened pencils if I knew your name and address." ~You've Got Mail*



I hope you have all enjoyed your Summer! Though we are still technically in the Summer season, Autumn is just around the corner, and school is back in session.

This is the first online edition of the Provider Newsletter, so I hope you all enjoy it in all of it's coloured glory!

I thought I would share with you some really fun Autumn ideas to try with the children. Please let me know If you have more that we can share on the blog or on Facebook.

If you would like to see anything in this newsletter that you do not see, please let me know and I will work on that for the issues to come.

## Joke Corner...



Q: What creature sticks to the bottom of sheep ships?

A: Baan-nacles

# An Exercise in Creative Day Home Management:

## Empathizing

Sometimes we can become so busy “doing” the teaching and caring that we can miss the importance of listening to the children and then empathizing with them, this is an important part of our care-giving. Why is the child upset? Are they confused, sad, has something happened at home?

We have all had experiences that have upset us, and by thinking and reflecting on your experiences (when you were frustrated) and how you felt, you may be able to identify and empathize with your children.

1. Think of a time you didn't understand something: (jot it down)
2. If there was someone else there, how did they react? How did the other person's reaction make you feel? Or, how did you feel even if you were alone?
3. How did the reaction affect your behaviour? What did you do?
4. Now think of a similar situation with one of your children. Describe it. How did you react? Was this reaction appropriate or could you have reacted/acted differently?

Remember, empathy is an important skill to develop if we want to listen better to children.

So take small first steps by listening to their voices today.



### Did you know?

Bright red & purple colors, like in maple leaves, are formed from trapped glucose.

Most leaves fall from trees because the ends of the branch are sealed off near the leaf stem to protect the tree through the long winter months.



## Arts & Craft Activity

### Autumn Wreath

Leaves  
Acorns  
Pine Cones  
Bow  
Brown paint  
Paper plates

Description: Cut the center out of a paper plate and have the children paint the paper plate, brown. Next, go for a walk to find fall leaves, acorns and pine cones. When the plates are dry give the children glue and let them have fun. Away from the children, I use the hot glue gun to glue any loose pieces and the bow.



*“Autumn is  
a second  
spring when  
every leaf  
is a flower.”*



## Cooking Activities

### Pumpkin Spice Butter

4 tbsp (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, softened  
4 tbsp canned pumpkin puree  
1 tsp brown sugar  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1/8 tsp ground cloves  
1/8 tsp ground ginger  
1/8 tsp freshly grated or dried nutmeg  
1/8 tsp salt

Combine all ingredients and mix well. Keep tightly covered in the refrigerator up to three weeks.

NOTE: 1/2 teaspoon of pumpkin pie spice can be substituted for cloves, ginger and nutmeg.

### Pumpkin Pancakes

30 min.

**Number of servings:**  
yields 16 four-inch pancakes

2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 Tbsp. brown sugar  
1 Tbsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg  
1/4 tsp. ground ginger  
1 1/2 - 2 cups milk (adjust as needed)  
1/2 cup solid-pack pumpkin  
1 egg, lightly beaten

Lightly oil griddle and pre-heat to 375 degrees F.

In large bowl, thoroughly combine milk, pumpkin, egg, and oil. In a separate bowl, combine all other ingredients, mix well (start w/ lower amount of milk; more can be added later). Add dry mix to that other bowl, and combine until blended, but do not over-mix. If it seems to be/proves to be a bit on the thick side, add milk and stir until it becomes a proper pancake batter consistency (should neither run all over the pan nor sit there like a lump!).

For each pancake, pour 1/4 cup batter on hot griddle. Cook until surface bubbles, and the edges and top surface begin to appear a bit dry.

Flip them over; cook 2-3 more minutes.

## The Leaves are Falling Down

Sung to: "Farmer in the Dell"

The leaves are falling down  
The leaves are falling down  
Red, yellow, green, and brown  
The leaves are falling down



## Autumn Songs

### Autumn Leaves

Sung to: "Mulberry Bush"

Summer leaves are hanging,  
Hanging, hanging  
Summer leaves are hanging  
All day long. (stand with arms outstretched)  
Autumn leaves are turning colors...All day long. (turn around)  
Autumn leaves are falling down...All day long. (lower self to floor)  
Autumn leaves are dancing....All day long. (dance)  
Autumn leaves are being raked.....All day long.  
(a few children can gather the group closer)



## Dramatic Play Activity

### Time to Rake

Time to rake the leaves. Place toys rakes in the center and sprinkle either real or pretend leaves around in the floor. Provide a basket for the leaves. Kids can dress in jackets and rake the leaves into a pile and place them into the basket.



## Gross Motor Activity



### Autumn Animals

Have a list of animals that change in the Autumn, like squirrels and bears, explain to the children what they do in the Autumn and have the children act out that animal. For the squirrel the children can scurry around collecting nuts and for the bears they can act out a sleepy bear.



## Sock Count

### What You Need:

10 or more pairs of socks  
Coloured duct tape or electrical tape  
Bold permanent marker  
Laundry basket

## Math



Write the numbers 1–10 on strips of coloured tape. Make two for each number.  
Lay the pairs of socks flat on the table and attach each pair of numbers to a pair

of socks. Place  
the socks in a laundry basket.

Invite your child to dump out the basket of socks and make a mess of everything!

Challenge your child to match the socks by their numbers and place them together in pairs on the floor.

Ask your child to name the numbers on the socks and identify their color.

## Science Activities

### Collecting Leaves

Make a book for each child with a construction paper cover and white paper pages in the middle, staple or string the pages together and write the child's name and "My Leaf Collection" on the front.

Each time you take the children for a walk, encourage them to collect different leaves that they find. Each time you return from your walks

### Animal Food

What do animals eat in Autumn. Look at animals that prepare for Winter in the Autumn and discuss what they eat. Bring in some nuts and berries, allow the children to try some of the food. Bring photos in of the animals and their food. How does the animal food differ from our food? Show the amount of food that an animal like a bear eats in Autumn.

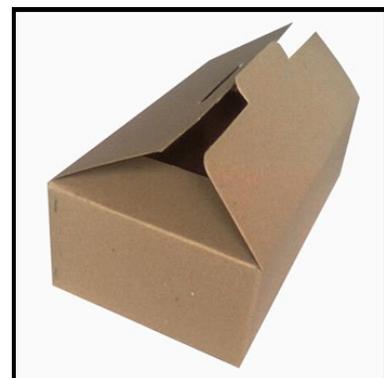
## Sensory Activity

### Fall Feely Box

Leaves  
Acorns  
Pine Cones  
Nuts  
Apples  
A Shoe Box (Cut Hole in Top.)

Without the children seeing you, add the objects in the box.

During circle time have the children take turns feeling inside the box. Ask each child to describe what he or she feels and what they think it is.

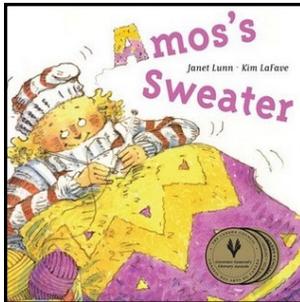
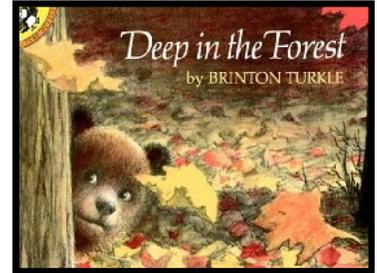


## The Reading Corner

### Deep In The Forest

**By Brinton Turkle**

In this clever, wordless turnabout on the Goldilocks story, a curious bear cub wreaks havoc in the cabin of a pioneer family out for a walk. Pencil-and-wash pictures bring the forest and Goldilocks' family frontier cabin to life, infusing the tale with a satisfying warmth, a sense of love and security, and just the right touch of humour.



### Amos's Sweater

**By Janet Lunn & Kim Lafave**

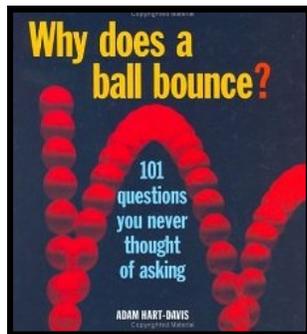
Poor Amos! What's a sheep to do when he's old and cold and Aunt Hattie has just made a beautiful new sweater for Uncle Henry from his wool? Get the wool back--that's Amos's answer in Janet Lunn's absolutely hilarious picture book *Amos's Sweater*. Old Amos is one determined sheep, and kids will root for him as he fights to reclaim his wool.

### Wee R Kids Lending Library

All of these books are available to providers through our lending library. We have over 250 titles available. Come and take a look! If you are looking for a book on a specific title or by a specific author, let me know, we might just have it here in the office.

## The Reading Corner

### Staff Resources

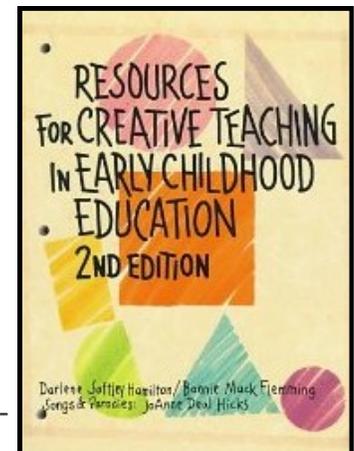


### Why Does a Ball Bounce By Adam Hart-Davis

101 answers to 101 questions about life, the universe and more, illustrated with 101 spectacular colour photographs. See science in action and close up, from spiders' webs to water drops to sparks from a plug to a match igniting.

### Resources for Creative Teaching in Early Childhood By Darlene Softley Hamilton & Bonnie Mack Flemming

This resource handbook integrates curriculum ideas and learning opportunities into every part of a school day's program. The book deals with a variety of subjects grouped under the general headings Self-Concept, Families, Family Celebrations, Seasons, Animals, Transportation, and The World I Live In. Each topic area is divided into sections on basic understandings; additional facts the teacher should know; methods most adaptable for introducing the subject to children; vocabulary; learning centers, including discovery center, dramatic play centers, learning, language, and readiness materials center, art center, and book center; planning for group-time, including music, finger-play and poems, stories, games, routine times, large muscle activities and extended experiences; and teacher resources, including books and periodicals, pictures and displays, and community resources. Included are descriptions of games, music, art, and dramatics, accessories, and playground equipment that can be made by the teacher; listings of commercial games, records and their manufacturers; and concise bibliographies.



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## A Few Reminders



Remember to have your menus, fire drills, activity sheets etc on display in your Day Home from the start of the day till the last child leaves. It is important to have these items displayed and filled in for the week to give parents a glimpse of their child's day. It is also important for it to be displayed so that I can easily check it when I come out for the monthly visits, or when licensing comes out with me.

Please also remember to have your binders organized. Make sure to have all of your information, the children's information (in their own tab) and any of the information that you need to be storing such as your field trip forms and your menus. Please also make sure to have copies of you're your home and car insurance (if you transport) in your binder as well.

## September Visits:

Visits for this month will be focused on providing children with a diverse environment. This could mean culturally diverse, or diverse in age groups, it could even be including children with special needs. What does this look like? Can it be a fun experience for all? I will have some information as well as some fun activities you can do to teach children about the differences we have.



### Suggestions

This newsletter is for you, the providers and we would like to hear from you. If there is anything that you would like to see in this newsletter that hasn't been added please let me know. Any suggestions you might have can be forwarded by email to [weerkids@telus.net](mailto:weerkids@telus.net), call the office or suggest it at a provider meeting whatever format you are most comfortable with.