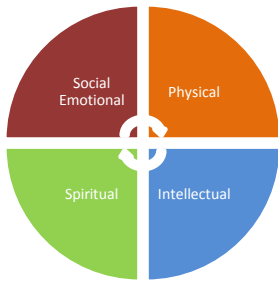


# Using Children's Literature to Supporting Learning in Developmentally Appropriate Ways



**Book Title:** *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert

**Age:**  Infant  Toddler  Preschool-Aged

**Which areas of holistic development does this book support?**

Intellectual  Physical  
 Social Emotional  Spiritual

**Essential Learning Experiences:** (Which specific experiences does this book support? Most books will support many different experiences so identify your focus.)

- Physical: Develop loco-motor skills – identify type of movement and how to do it
- Intellectual:
  - Engaging in Conversation – conveying ideas/concepts
  - Representing Ideas using Expressive Forms – drawing, painting, collage (expand creative representation)

**Vocabulary:** (Identify new words or phrases to introduce to children. When and how will you introduce the vocabulary and provide a way for children to experience/discover the meaning in an active and developmentally appropriate way?)

- **Animal names** When you get to the page that says ‘and past the spotted cows?’ ask the children what image on the page does this remind you of? (see if they can guess cow. If you need to give a clue, verbally indicate it has four legs or makes the sound ‘moo’, and/or gives us milk.) Can you find other images that remind you of animals in the book? (These pages looks like... fish, chickens, carrots, birds, turtle etc.)
- **Blows/blew; flying/flew; gliding** – these words are repeated throughout the book: ask the children to demonstrate with their bodies how to blow, fly and glide.

**Opportunities for Representation:** (materials to create an invitation, representing ideas)

- Provide an invitation for children to explore: Possible materials could include: various shaped leaves (they could be pressed), twigs, plastic or real acorns, leaves, placemat or paper as background, basket or tray for items, small pumpkin, small squash, calendar pictures with fall images. You could also add additional books to explore that feature similar themes and ideas.



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- Encourage children to create their own images/collage using the materials that are offered? (Model how to create images using leaves. What ideas do the children have?)
- Add coloured pencils/paint along with paper for children to draw/paint what they created in their leaf collage on to the paper. Use the colours that are featured in the book.

**Opportunities to Extend:** (Ideas from the book based on interests of the children such as questions to encourage exploration, outdoor experiences, cultural connections, family engagement)

- Go outdoors to find leaves. Add them to the invitation inside your program. What colours did the children find? What shapes did the children find? Can you sort the leaves into small, medium, large?
- Rake a pile of leaves so children can experience jumping into the leaves. What sounds do leaves make in the fall?
- Other books to add: *Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf*; *Up, Down and Around, A Seed is Sleepy* – they can be ordered from your local public library
- Read the books outdoors on a lovely fall day.
- Invite families to participate. Plan a nature walk together to collect items. Then provide a space and encourage families to create representations together- can be large or small, on the floor or tables etc. Have copies of the book or other samples to inspire creativity. Have a camera available to take photos of the creations so there is a lasting documentation of the shared creation.

