November preschool themes: apples, pumpkins, leaves, harvest, farm

Peabody blog · Teaching · updated 2026-10-30

Eight preschool themes that fit November, from apples and leaves to thankful and families, each with its books, song, craft, snack and letter. Free to plan and print.

Eight preschool themes fit November: apples, pumpkins, farm, leaves, scarecrows and harvest, thankful, families, and food and cooking. November has four or five weeks, so pick the ones that match what's outside your window and what your room is curious about. Each one opens in Peabody's free theme planner with books, a craft, a song, a Kitchen snack and a letter pack. Peabody is free through the end of 2026, with no sign-in and no ads.

The November page lists all eight in one place. Here is what each week holds, and one way to string four of them together.

The eight themes

- Theme: Apples · Letter: A · Song: Oranges and Lemons · Snack: Rainbow Fruit Cup
- Theme: Pumpkins · Letter: P · Song: Ring Around the Rosie · Snack: No-Bake Pumpkin Pie Cups
- Theme: Farm · Letter: F · Song: Old MacDonald Had a Farm · Snack: English Muffin Pizzas
- Theme: Leaves · Letter: L · Song: Pease Porridge Hot · Snack: Yogurt Parfait
- Theme: Scarecrows and harvest · Letter: S · Song: Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary · Snack: Ants on a Log
- Theme: Thankful · Letter: T · Song: Polly Put the Kettle On · Snack: Banana Oat Cookies
- Theme: Families · Letter: F · Song: Hush, Little Baby · Snack: Fruit Dip
- Theme: Food and cooking · Letter: C · Song: Old Mother Hubbard · Snack: Butter in a Jar

Every song is a public-domain rhyme from Peabody's lists, and every snack links to its recipe in the Peabody Kitchen with allergens, swaps and lines for under-4s.

Fall, still outside

Leaves. Collecting, sorting by color and size, and watching leaves fall. The question is "Why do leaves fall off the trees?" The craft is a leaf rubbing: tape a leaf under paper and rub the side of a crayon over it until the veins show. Outside is a leaf hunt for a big leaf, a small leaf, a red one and a brown one, lined up from small to big. The read-aloud is Who Lives Under the Log?, true facts about what lives under fallen leaves.

Scarecrows and harvest. What farmers pick in the fall, why a scarecrow stands in the field, and sorting the crops. The craft is a paper-plate scarecrow with yellow paper straw. Outside is scarecrow freeze: children flap like birds, and when you call "Scarecrow!" everyone freezes with arms out. The read-aloud is Henny Penny.

Apples and Pumpkins both run into November. Apples counts the seeds inside; pumpkins follows a seed to a vine. The apple week and the pumpkin week each have their own post.

Farm. The animals, their sounds and babies, and the food that comes from a farm, with a paper-bag barn and an animal walk.

Late November, inside

Thankful. Saying thank you, sharing food, and the people and things we are glad of. It's a gratitude week, not a holiday week, so every family in the room fits. The question is "Who would you like to say thank you to?" The craft is a thank-you handprint tree: a grown-up draws the trunk, each child presses a painted hand on as a leaf, and you write by each hand who that child is thankful for. Outside is a helper relay, passing a basket down a line and saying "thank you" with each ball. The books are all short ones children can follow: A Bun for Fran, Pat, Pat, Pat, Ring the Bell and Fish in a Dish.

Families. Who is in a family, how families are different and the same, and what we do together. The craft is a family house with window flaps; under each flap a child draws someone in their family, pets too. The song is the lullaby "Hush, Little Baby". The read-aloud is A Boo for Bea, about a big sibling and a baby.

Food and cooking. Where food comes from, washing hands, measuring and stirring, and a play kitchen. The snack is the activity: Butter in a Jar, shaken by the children. The craft is a paper-plate meal, and outside is a mud kitchen with spoons, pots and water. The read-aloud is Yum!

One way to run November

- Week: 1 · Theme: Leaves · Why there: The leaves are on the ground now, not later.
- Week: 2 · Theme: Scarecrows and harvest · Why there: The crops are in; sorting builds on the leaf sort.
- Week: 3 · Theme: Food and cooking · Why there: From the field to the table.
- Week: 4 · Theme: Thankful · Why there: Sharing food and saying thank you, before a short week.

If your November has five weeks, add Families as the last one, or keep Pumpkins from October for a week. If you ran apples and pumpkins in October, this order picks up where they left off.

Try this tonight

Open the planner on your phone. Pick next Monday, then "Leaves", then your room's ages. Read the five-line circle time and the week grid, and add a note for any day you already know will be different: a short day, a visitor, a closed Friday. Print the wall sheet and the family note at school in the morning.

Then open the newsletter maker, which pulls the same theme in. Type one line for "What's coming", leave the song's words on, and you have the family letter for the month's first week. Anything you type stays in your browser. The share link holds only the theme and which blocks are on.

Before you print, the newsletter maker flags a child's name, your program's name, an address or a phone number as "check before you print". It never blocks you; it just asks you to look.

Three things providers ask

Why is there no holiday theme in November?

Peabody's themes have no holidays, characters or brands. The "Thankful" week covers gratitude, harvest and sharing food, so you can run it in late November and every family in the room fits.

Can I run two November themes in one week?

You can, but the planner plans one theme a week so the song and books repeat enough for children to join in. Many rooms find one theme a week, read three times, is plenty.

Which November books can a four-year-old read along with?

Levels 0 to 3. In the thankful week that's all four books. The books marked read-aloud, like Henny Penny and Yum!, are for the grown-up to read. All of them are in Peabody's free library.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/november-preschool-themes