

Dear Family,

In my class today, I explored leaves and made a leaf rubbing.

Did You Know?

- A leaf is the flat part of a plant. It uses the sun to make food for the plant. Leaves grow on trees, bushes, and plants. Plants have different leaf shapes, size, and colors. Most plant leaves are broad and flat. However, some plants, like a cactus, have thick, juicy leaves. Leaves keep their shape with the help of the lines on the underside of the leaf. These lines on a leaf are called veins. Veins also help the leaf to carry food and water. The veins on a leaf are slightly raised. This gives the leaf some texture. They can form interesting designs.
- Many types of leaves are edible. These are mostly leaves from vegetable plants. Some leaves are seasonal. They change colors in the fall. These leaves come from trees and bushes.

Ask Your Child:

- Tell me how the leaves were different/similar.
- Where did the leaves come from?
- What did you use to make a leaf rubbing?
- Tell me how the lines appeared on your leaf rubbing.

Activities To Do With Your Child:

- Go for a walk in a wooded area, and collect leaves. When you get home, spread out the leaves you collected. Help your child sort the leaves by size, shape, or color.
- On your next trip to the grocery store, point out lettuces, spinach, cabbages, and other edible leaves in the vegetable section. Help your child choose some to take home and try.
- Help your child make a fall wreath decoration. Cut a ring out of sturdy cardboard. Use glue to fix the leaves onto the cardboard. Your child can add other fall items to decorate the wreath with, such as acorns, dried flowers, pinecones, and nut shells found on the ground.

Vocabulary To Use With Your Child:

- **leaves** – the flat growths (usually green) from the stem or branch of a tree or plant.
- **lettuce** – the large leaves of a certain type of green plant that are eaten as a vegetable.
- **edible** – able to be eaten as food.
- **sort** – kind or type.
- **rubbing** – the act of pushing back and forth across something using pressure.
- **vein** – a small tube in a leaf that carries food and water.