

Apple Centers Aplenty!

Harvest a crop of kid-pleasing learning opportunities with these apple-themed centers!

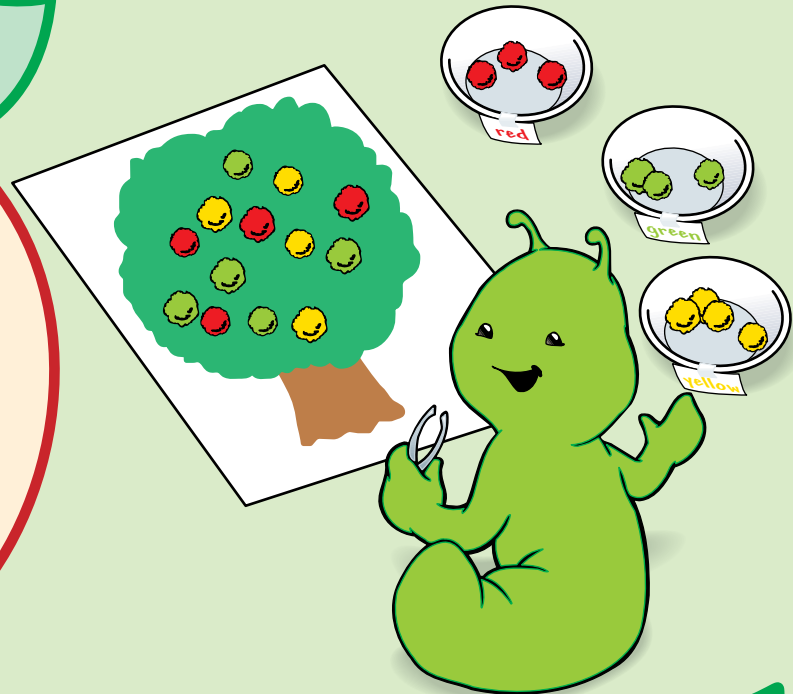
*ideas contributed by LeeAnn Collins
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Math Center

Pickin' Apples

Sorting objects by color

Youngsters pick a peck of pom-pom apples at this center—and they sort the peck, too! On a large sheet of construction paper, draw and color a tree with lots of foliage. Laminate the artwork for durability and then tape it to a center table. Place red, yellow, and green pom-poms on the tree to represent apples. Next, use the corresponding color of marker to write each apple color on an individual label. Attach each label to a different small container. Place the containers and a pair of tweezers at the center. A youngster uses the tweezers to pick each apple off the tree and sort it into its corresponding container.

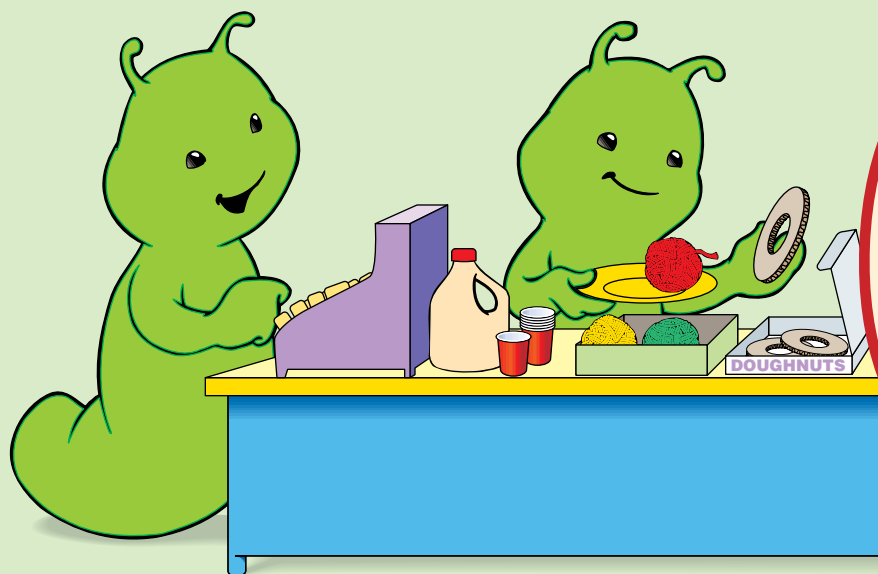


Dramatic Play

At the Orchard

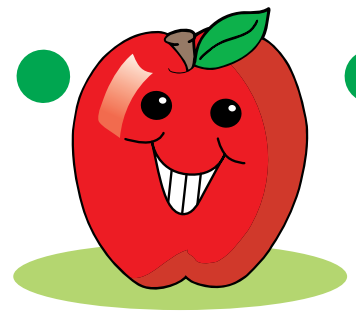
Developing imagination and language

This apple orchard has apples, apple cider, and applesauce doughnuts for sale! For bushels of dramatic play, provide a toy cash register and nonbreakable cups and plates. Then stock the area with one or more clean and empty apple cider jugs; an apple box that contains red, yellow, and green yarn balls; and a doughnut box that holds doughnut shapes cut from craft foam or cardboard. This orchard stand is ready for business!



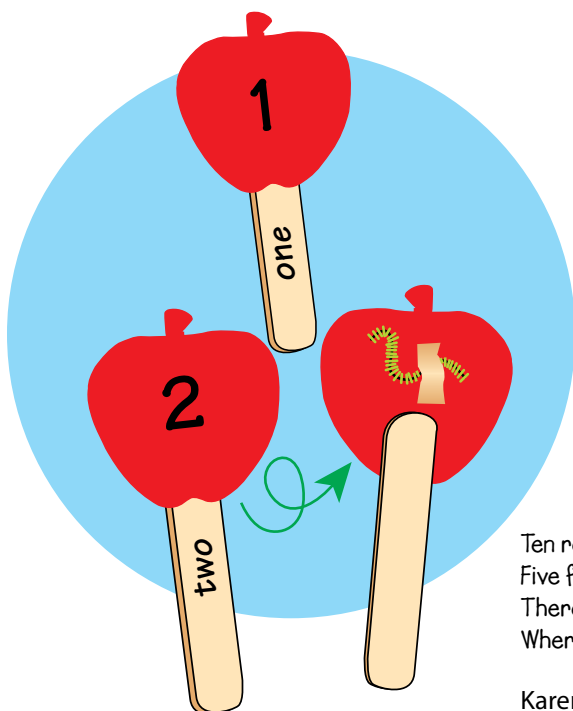
Get-to-Know-You Graphing

Your students will learn more about one another when you try this **graphing** idea! To begin, cut an apple tree from bulletin board paper and mount it on a wall within students' reach. Add one personalized die-cut apple for each child. Next, sketch out a simple two- or three-column graph on chart paper. Each morning, post a different apple-related graphing question (see suggestions below). When a child arrives, have her take her apple off the tree and place it on the graph in the column that represents her answer to the question. At group time, discuss the results of the graph and then extend the conversation by asking the corresponding extension question. A quick glance at the apple tree will show you if any students are absent!



Do you like apple pie?	
Yes	No
Sam	
Joe	
Keisha	
	Ari

- Do you like apple pie? Yes/No
What is your favorite food?
- What is your favorite apple color? Red/Yellow/Green
What is your favorite color?
- Have you ever bobbed for apples? Yes/No
What is your favorite game?
- Have you ever picked an apple off a tree? Yes/No
Tell about a favorite vacation or special place to visit.
- What is the best thing about apples? Colors/Taste/Good for You
What is the best thing about you?



Ten Red Apples

Seeing a worm on one of these apples won't spoil the fun of this fingerplay and **numeral-recognition** activity. To prepare, tape one apple-shaped cutout (patterns on page 11) to each of ten craft sticks. Write a different numeral from 1 to 10 on each of the apples. Then write the corresponding number word on each craft stick. Bend a green pipe cleaner to resemble a worm. Tape the worm to the back of an apple so that it is hidden. During a group time, ask ten volunteers to each hold an apple. Have the remaining children join you in reciting the following fingerplay; then have them guess the apple that has the worm by naming its number.

Ten red apples growing on a tree.
Five for you and five for me.
There's one little worm that you can't see.
Where, oh where, could that little worm be?

(Hold up ten fingers.)
(Show one hand; then the other.)
(Wiggle one finger.)
(Hold hands out questioning.)

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