




Theme 4: Apples! Apples! Apples! (Beginning the School Year)

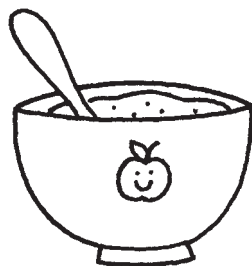
	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 3	Activity 4
Monday	<p>DISCUSSION TOPIC: APPLES Tell the children that this week they are going to learn all about apples. In many places, apples are at their best in late September. Where do apples grow? What color are apples?</p>	<p>PAINT APPLES On a wall or bulletin board make a large tree out of brown and green construction paper. Have each child paint the back of a small paper plate the color red and paste a stem and two leaves on the top. (See the next activity for displaying the apples.)</p>	<p>UP AND DOWN ON THE APPLE TREE Ask the children one at a time where they wish to place their red paper plate apples on the tree. Should they go "up" on the green part of the tree, or should the apples go "down" on the ground?</p>	<p>LET'S MAKE BAKED APPLE DUMPLINGS The recipe for baked apple dumplings can be found on page 29.</p> 
Tuesday	<p>DISCUSSION TOPIC: APPLE ART If possible, arrange a field trip to a local apple orchard. Send home permission notes and a request for parent volunteer chaperones.</p>	<p>CUT-AND-PASTE APPLE TREE The reproducible "Cut-and-Paste Apple Tree" activity can be found on page 31.</p>	<p>APPLE PRINTS Prepare bowls of red paint and cut several apples in half. Have the children use a paintbrush to apply the paint on the apples and then make apple prints on white paper. When the paint is dry, the children can add brown stems and green leaves. These projects can make nice place mats.</p>	<p>LARGE APPLE PATTERN The large apple pattern found on page 30, can be used for a variety of activities. Teach the color red and let the children color the apple. Add lines and use as creative writing paper. It can also be used as note-paper for newsletters and for notes home to parents.</p>
Wednesday	<p>SHOW-AND-TELL WEDNESDAY DISCUSSION TOPIC: APPLES ARE A FRUIT An apple is a fruit. There are many different kinds of fruits. Ask the children to help you make a list of all the fruits that they can think of. Take a poll of their favorite fruits and make a graph.</p>	<p>APPLESAUCE The recipe for applesauce can be found on page 29.</p> 	<p>MATCHING APPLE FACES Prepare ten apple drawings – give each apple a different face. Make another identical set so there are 20 apple drawings in all. Mix up the apples on a table and let the children enjoy trying to find the matching pairs.</p>	<p>PLAYDOUGH APPLES The recipe for playdough apples can be found on page 29.</p>
Thursday	<p>DISCUSSION TOPIC: APPLE RED Ask the children if anyone is wearing red today. Announce that tomorrow will be Red Day. Everyone should wear something red. (Post this announcement on your parents notification board or be sure to send a note home.)</p>	<p>I'M A LITTLE APPLE Sung to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot." You can find the words on page 29.</p> 	<p>JOHNNY APPLESEED Read the children the story of <i>Johnny Applesseed</i>. If you do not know the story or have the book, a version of the story is easily found on the internet by simply searching for "Johnny Applesseed."</p>	<p>BOBBING FOR APPLES Now this will be messy but tons of fun! Fill a big bucket with water and let the children try to bob for apples. (Be sure to ask parents to send an extra shirt to school today!)</p>
Friday	<p>SPECIAL NEWS FRIDAY DISCUSSION TOPIC: IT'S RED DAY Today is red day. Give each child an opportunity to show the class what he or she is wearing that is red. Be prepared for families who forget. Have red scarves, hats, etc., on hand to share.</p>	<p>COUNTING APPLE SEEDS Use the large apple pattern on page 29 or make your own smaller apples. Each child will make an apple seed counting book. On the first apple, print a "1" and draw one seed. On the second apple, print a "2" and draw two seeds, and so on. Staple the apples together to make a counting book.</p>	<p>APPLE TASTING Bring in a couple of red apples, green apples, and yellow apples. Cut into small pieces and have an apple tasting party. Make a graph of the colors and chart which the children liked best. Can you tell from the chart which color the children liked the least? Draw conclusions.</p>	<p>TEN APPLES UP ON TOP Read the book, <i>Ten Apples Up On Top</i> by Theo LeSeig (Dr. Seuss). Let the children try walking around the room with beanbags on their heads, just like in the story.</p>

BAKED APPLE DUMPLINGS

Discuss apples with the children. Ask them, "What do you think we can make with apples?" Most children will say applesauce. They may be surprised when you tell them apple dumplings!

You will need: 2 pie crust sticks (or an other type of ready-to-bake pie crust dough), 8 unpeeled apples, 4 cups sugar, 4 teaspoons cinnamon, and 4 teaspoons butter.

Directions: Roll out the pie crust sticks and cut them into squares. Four squares for each pie stick. Using a knife, dig out the core of a whole apple. (*Do this step yourself.*) After covering the bottom of the apple with the dough, fill the hole with sugar, cinnamon, and butter. Finish wrapping the apple in one square of the pie crust dough. Pinch the dough together at the top. Repeat for the remaining apples. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes. Let cool and divide for the children to eat. Yum!



APPLESAUCE

Talk about this activity with the children a day or so before you plan to cook. Ask each child to bring an apple from home. The children will love helping by being responsible for some of the ingredients.

You will need: (*Adjust this recipe according to how many children you have in your class.*) 6 apples, 1/2 cup water, 1 cup sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, and, for extra fun, a few hot cinnamon candies to add a splash of color and a hint of added flavor.

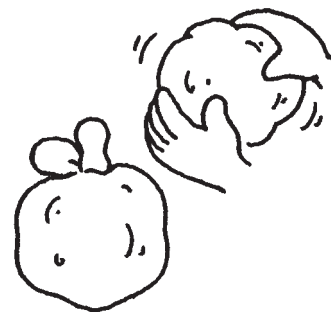
Directions: Peel, core, and cut the apples. Put in a saucepan. Add the water, sugar, and cook until the apples are soft. Another great food treat!

PLAYDOUGH APPLES

Children love playing with playdough, and it is even more fun when they get to make the dough all by themselves! Here is a successful recipe to try.

You will need: Red food coloring, 1 cup water, 1 cup salt, 1 cup flour, 6 teaspoons alum, and 2 tablespoons salad oil.

Directions: Add the food coloring to the water. Place all of the ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Mix until the consistency is smooth and firm. The playdough will last for several weeks if it is stored in an airtight container. Show the children how to roll a ball with the playdough. The children can make playdough apples.

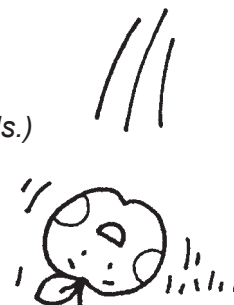


I'm a little apple,
Round and red.
Here are my leaves,
Here is my stem.
When I finish growing,
Round and red.
I fall from the tree and
Land on my head!

I'M A LITTLE APPLE

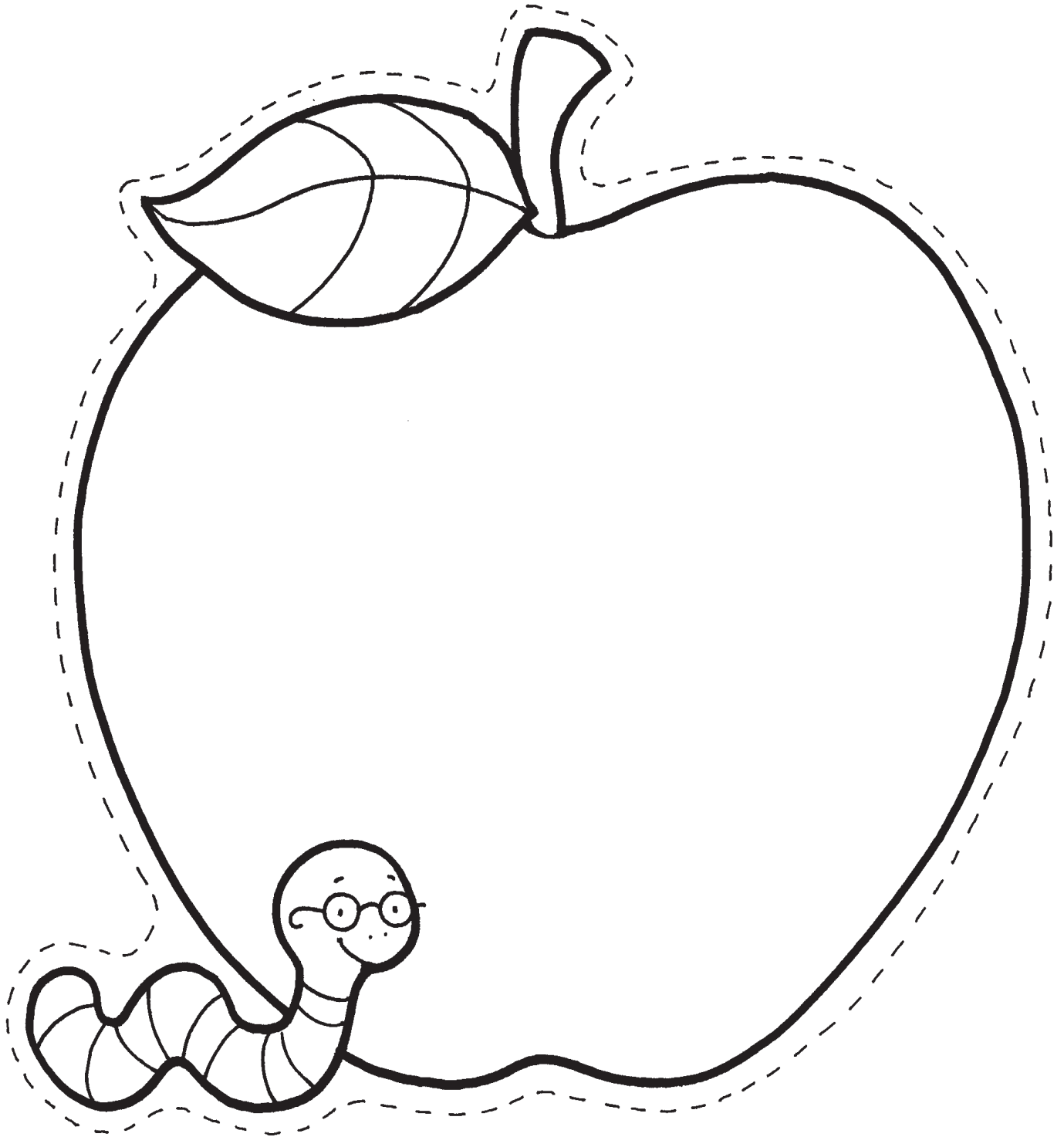
(Sung to the tune of "I'm A Little Teapot")

(Hold arms at side.)
(Use arms to form a big circle.)
(Touch top of head with both hands.)
(Touch head with one hand.)
(Hold arms at side.)
(Use arms to form a big circle.)
(Pretend to start falling.)
(Fall down.)



Large Apple Pattern

Use with the activity ideas found on page 28.



Directions: Teach the children the rhyme. Ask the children to color the tree and the apples, then draw a smiley face on each apple. Then have them cut out the tree and the apples, and paste the apples on the tree. Send the completed trees home with the children so they can share the rhyme with their parents.

Cut-and-Paste Apple Tree

The Apple Tree
Way up in the apple tree,
Two little apples smiled at me.
I shook that tree,
As hard as I could.
Down they came.
Yum, they were good!

