

FALL TREE * LUMINARIES

Welcome all the wonderful colors of the season with a creative craft that practices fine motor skills and gives a cozy light to autumn's longer nights.



MATERIALS:

- Clear Mason Jars
- Tissue Paper – A Variety of Colors
- Construction Paper
- Mod Podge or Glue
- Paintbrushes
- Scissors
- Light
There are lots of options for light! You can use a real candle or an electric candle, strings of battery-powered twinkle lights, or a small flashlight.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Cut or tear the tissue paper into small (but not tiny) pieces.
- 2 Give your kids the paintbrushes to apply mod podge/ glue onto the jars in sections (so it doesn't dry and lose its stickiness too quickly).
- 3 Have your kids use their hands to apply pieces of tissue paper to each sticky section. The colors can overlap, be in patterns, or totally random, however they think it should look. Pro tip: have a wet towel handy for wiping off sticky fingers between steps!
- 4 Cut out tree shapes from the construction paper – a trunk and some branches - and have your kids attach these with mod podge/glue to the jar on top of the tissue paper.
- 5 To make sure all the pieces stay in place, coat the outside of the jar and all the decorations with a layer of mod podge/glue, then let it dry.
- 6 Add your light source and enjoy the glow!

EXPAND THIS ACTIVITY WITH STEM CONCEPTS:

Talk with your kids about why leaves change color.

Leaves are actually always colorful! But the green chlorophyll in leaves covers up the colors. In the fall, the chlorophyll breaks down, allowing other colors to shine through!



Why does the sun set earlier in the fall? Explain to your kids that it gets dark earlier because the planet where they live rotates around the sun they see in the sky.

As Earth moves slowly around the sun it receives different amounts of sunlight during different seasons. In summer months, the top of Earth is pointed towards the sun, so where we live, we get more sunlight. In winter months, where we live is pointed away from the sun, so we get fewer hours of daylight.

