

Welcome to Lavender's Blue Kindergarten!



Please note that this is a **SAMPLE** of the curriculum. It contains the weekly plan for Week One of Autumn. Each week follows this format, with the circle songs and verses on one page for easy reference, the story, the painting and modeling suggestions, and the craft project.

What you don't see in this sample is:

- The full introduction which explains the essentials of Waldorf-inspired kindergarten as well as how to use the weekly plan and do all the activities.
- The full seasonal circle, including opening and closing verses, movement suggestions for each verse/song/fingerplay, and author attributions.
- The audio recordings of all the circle songs and verses.
- The integrated nature of the curriculum, which is not a random compilation of songs, stories, and crafts, but rather a carefully crafted whole!
- The included group consulting with Kelly to help you get into rhythm, adapt the weekly plan to your own particular family, and answer all your questions.

For more information, please visit Lavender's Blue Homeschool or contact kelly@lavendersbluehomeschool.com.

Week One

Winter is white, springtime is green
Summer is golden, and autumn aflame.
Four lovely seasons to have in a year,
Sing them by color, sing them by name.

Look at me, I'm a tall tall tree,
In the winter snowflakes fall on me,
They fall! They fall!

Look at me, I'm a tall tall tree,
In the springtime the blossoms bloom on me,
They open! They open!

Look at me, I'm a tall tall tree,
In the summer the breezes blow through me,
I bend! I bend!

Look at me, I'm a tall tall tree,
In the autumn the apples drop from me,
They drop! They drop!

Let's go to the apple orchard today
We'll pick apples and dance and play!

Can you walk on two legs, two legs, two legs,
Can you walk on two legs, follow me!

I can walk on two legs, two legs, two legs,
I can walk on two legs, look at me!

Here stands a good apple tree
Stand fast at root, bear well at top
Every little twig, bear an apple big
Every little bough, bear an apple now
Hats full! Caps full! Threescore sacks full!

The leaves are green, the apples are red,
They hang so high above your head,
Leave them alone till frosty weather
Then they will all fall down together!

The leaves are green, the nuts are brown,
They hang so high and will not come down,
Leave them alone till frosty weather
Then they will all come down together!

Way up high in the apple tree,
Two little apples smiled at me!
I shook that tree as hard as I could,
Down came the apples,
Mmmm, they were good!

A Present for a Princess

{ *A Middle Eastern Fairy Tale* }

Once there was and once there wasn't, an extraordinarily beautiful princess who lived with her father the King in a land far far away. When it came time for her to marry, young men came from all over the world to seek her hand in marriage. The princess turned down every single one. Until one day, three handsome brothers arrived at the palace. The princess loved all three at first sight and she could not decide which one to marry. So she decided to give them a test. She said, "Each of you must travel the world in search of a present for me. I will marry the brother whose present I like best." So the brothers set off to travel the world in search of a present worthy of the princess. They agreed to split up and travel in different directions and meet back at home to show each other the gifts they had found.

The oldest brother went to China. He traveled for many days and visited many grand cities. In the markets he saw exquisitely carved furniture, gorgeous silks, and impressive tapestries. But he did not find anything that was worthy of the princess. One day as he walked through a city bazaar, he heard an old man call out to him, "Young man, come over here. I have something you will like to buy." The old man held out a small and beautiful carpet. The brother laughed. "Thank you, old man, but I need something much more wonderful than a carpet." "Ah," said the old man, "But this is a *magical* carpet! If you climb on and say the name of any place in the world, the carpet will take you straight there at once!" Now, the brother thought that was a present worthy of the princess! So he thanked the old man, gave him all of his money, sat on the carpet, spoke the name of his own city, and was whisked off for home at once.

Meanwhile, the middle brother went to Egypt. He found treasures wherever he went, and in the markets there was jewelry made from gold and precious gems. But he did not find anything that was worthy of the princess. One day as he visited the market of a great city, he heard an old man call out to him, "Young man, come over here. I have something you will like to buy." The old man held out a shining glass mirror. The brother laughed. "Thank you, old man, but I need something much more wonderful

than a mirror.” “Ah,” said the old man, “But this is a *magical* mirror! Only look into it and say the name of any place or any person in the world, and you can see them at once!” Now, the brother thought that was a present worthy of the princess! So he thanked the old man, gave him all of his money, and set off for home with the magical mirror.

All this time, the youngest brother was traveling through Arabia. He saw glorious cities and palaces, and markets teeming with wares. But he did not find anything that was worthy of the princess. One day, he was walking through the countryside on his way to the nearest town, when he stopped to have his lunch in an orchard by the side of the road. An old farmer was nearby tending his fruit trees. They spoke for awhile and the brother told the farmer about the beautiful princess and his search for a gift. “Come with me, young man,” said the farmer, “I have something you will like to give your princess.” So the brother followed the farmer deep into the orchard until they came to a great, tall, golden apple tree. The farmer reached up and picked a ripe red apple and handed it to the brother. The brother laughed. “Thank you, old man, but I need something much more wonderful than an apple.” “Ah,” said the old man, “But this is a magical apple! One bite of this apple will cure any illness, heal any injury, and soothe any pain. But it can only be used once!” Now, the brother thought that was a present worthy of the princess! So he thanked the old farmer, gave him all of his money, and set off for home with the apple safely tucked in his pouch.

When the brothers met each other at home, each was excited to show the others his precious gift. They congratulated each other on their precious finds and made plans to travel together to the princess' palace. “But first,” said the middle brother, “Let's look in the mirror and see the lovely princess!” They spoke her name and she appeared. But much to their dismay, she was very ill and close to death! The princess was lying in bed with doctors gathered all about her and her father the King was anxiously pacing the floor. “Quick!” said the oldest brother, “Climb on the carpet and we will go at once!” The three brothers flew to the palace and ran to the princess' bed chamber. They could see that the room was full of grief and that the King had lost all hope. The youngest brother held the magic apple to the princess' lips and said, “Here, take one bite of this apple and you will be healed!” The princess took a bite of the apple and immediately she was well

again. She sat up in bed, her cheeks rosy and her eyes bright, and the entire kingdom rejoiced that their princess was safe!

The next day, the princess called the three brothers to her side. She embraced the oldest brother and said, “Thank you for your wonderful gift. Without the carpet, you could never have come to my side so quickly.” She embraced the middle brother and said, “Thank you for your wonderful gift. Without the mirror, you would never have known how ill I was.” And then she held out her hand to the youngest brother and said, “And you, I will marry, for your wonderful apple could only be used once. You could have kept it for yourself, but instead you gave it to me.” So the princess and the youngest brother were married, and they were happy for all of their days.

The End

Note: In many versions of this story, the magical fruit is a lemon. It is sometimes an apple, and that works best for our Autumn theme.

Painting and Modeling

Painting with Red:

Once there was a beautiful apple tree with pink blossoms. And underneath the blossoms the baby fruit was growing. The apples grew and grew and ripened in the sun until the tree was covered in shiny red apples!

Modeling:

This week try making a flat circle for a mirror, a flat rectangle for a carpet, and a ball for an apple.

Silk Dyeing

Playsilks make the most wonderful toy and are also great for decorating your nature table. This week have fun dyeing your own! I've included instructions for natural dyeing and also dyeing with koolaid in the microwave. An adventurous attitude helps with this project as all kinds of interesting things can happen along the way and the results are not always predictable! You can see some of our experiments below (from left to right): Red cabbage, lemonade koolaid, beets, turmeric, grape koolaid, and spinach (which is more of an autumn wheat color than you can see in the picture).



Supplies for Natural Dye:

- white playsilks
- white vinegar
- vegetable matter or berries (see below)
- cooking pot and strainer

Natural Dye Materials:

- brown - coffee, tea
- pink to purple - red cabbage, beets, bee balm flower petals
- yellow to gold - goldenrod, turmeric, yellow onion skins, citrus peels
- blue to purple - blueberries, blackberries, black beans, red cabbage with salt

What to do:

1. Soak the playsilks in four parts hot water to one part vinegar for about an hour.
2. In the meantime, prepare the natural dye bath. Chop up your vegetable matter, put it in the cooking pot and fill with water until just covered. Add about 1/2 cup salt for berries or a good glug of vinegar for everything else. Boil for about an hour until the water is a beautiful color, then strain out the vegetable matter.
3. Turn the heat down, add your playsilk and let it sit in the hot dye bath for about an hour.
4. Hang your playsilk to dry and admire that gorgeous color!

Supplies for Koolaid Dye:

- white playsilks
- white vinegar
- microwave safe bowl
- plastic wrap
- 3 packets koolaid per color

What to do:

1. Soak the playsilks in four parts hot water to one part vinegar for about an hour.
2. Mix 2 cups hot water, 1/2 cup vinegar, and 3 packets koolaid in a microwave safe bowl.
3. Add the playsilk and cover with plastic wrap.
4. Microwave on high for 3 minutes. Let it sit for 3 minutes.
5. An adult should do this part because the steam is hot! Remove the plastic wrap and stir the playsilk. Use tongs if you want to rearrange the silk to get it more evenly coated. Re-cover with plastic wrap.
6. Repeat steps 4-5 two more times.
7. Hang your playsilk to dry and admire that gorgeous color!

