

leaf soup recipes

SENSORY BIN ACTIVITY



Lavinia Pop

FALL LEAVES SENSORY BINS

LEAF SOUP RECIPES



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ILLUSTRATIONS Kari Bolt, Little Red, Dancing Crayon Designs, Whimsy Clips, PartyHead Graphics, Ramona Majdis, Zip-a-Dee-doo-dah-Designs, Bunny on a Cloud, Krista Wallden - Creative Clips, Creating4 the Classroom, Rainbow Sprinkle Studio - Sasha Mitten, First Class Clipart, ClipArtisan, Muggy Studio

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PRINTING TIP This resource is designed for US Letter paper. Print at Actual Size or 100% to preserve the intended card and mat dimensions. If printing on another paper size, select Fit or Shrink to Printable Area and use the same scaling setting for all related pages.

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Leaf Soup Recipes

Turn fall leaves into playful counting practice! Children choose a leaf soup recipe card, search the sensory bin for the matching leaves, count each color, and add the leaves to the soup pot mat.

This hands-on preschool activity makes early math practice engaging while developing fine motor skills, color recognition, and the ability to follow visual directions.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 1 soup pot activity mat
- Circular leaf pieces in four colors: red, orange, yellow, and brown (print two copies)
- 20 ready-to-use leaf soup recipe cards
- 4 blank recipe cards
- Teacher directions
- Visual how-to-play guide
- 3 additional ways to play
- Sensory bin setup and safety guide
- Storage label

HOW TO PLAY

1. Place the leaf pieces inside a sensory bin.
2. Choose a leaf soup recipe card.
3. Find and count each leaf color shown on the card.
4. Place the leaves on the soup pot mat.
5. Clear the mat and choose another recipe.

MORE WAYS TO PLAY

- Roll and Make Soup: Choose one leaf color. Roll a die and add that many matching leaves to the soup pot.
- Make Your Own Recipe: Write numbers from 0 to 4 on a blank recipe card and make the recipe. Keep the total to 10 leaves or fewer.
- Count and Compare: Make two groups of leaves and compare which has more, fewer, or the same number.

SKILLS PRACTICED

- Counting
- One-to-one correspondence
- Number recognition
- Understanding zero
- Color recognition
- Comparing quantities
- Following visual directions
- Fine motor coordination
- Visual discrimination
- Independent task completion

PERFECT FOR

- Preschool and pre-K math centers
- Fall and leaf themes
- Sensory bin activities
- Small group learning
- Morning tubs
- Early finishers
- Homeschool activities
- Occupational therapy and fine motor practice

PREPARATION

Print the activity on cardstock and laminate for durability. Print two copies of the leaf pieces, then cut apart the pieces and recipe cards. Add the leaves to your preferred sensory bin filler. Brown crinkle paper and fabric fall leaves work well. Optional tweezers or tongs provide additional fine motor practice.

Begin with recipe cards featuring quantities of 1 and 2. Introduce cards with 3 and 4 as children become confident. Use the cards containing zero to explore the idea that 0 means none.

Adult supervision is required when using sensory fillers and small pieces.

Happy Teaching :)

Sensory Bin Setup & Safety

Sensory bins give children opportunities to explore materials while practicing early learning skills. Choose tools and fillers to suit the children using them.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Print the required pages on cardstock at Actual Size or 100%.
- Laminate for repeated use, if desired, and cut out the pieces.
- Add a shallow layer of filler to a tray or sensory bin.
- Partly hide the leaf pieces. Place the soup pot mat and recipe cards beside the bin.
- Model choosing a recipe, counting the leaves, and placing them on the mat.
- Begin with a small selection of recipe cards and add more as children become confident.
- Check the More Ways to Play card for any additional materials.

PREPARING THE LEAF PIECES

- Print two copies of the leaf pieces to provide enough of each color for all the recipes and the dice activity.
- Cut around the circular outlines, keeping the white border around each leaf.
- Use the same leaf pieces for the main activity and all three additional ways to play.
- Laminate the blank recipe cards for use with a dry-erase marker.

CHOOSING A FILLER

Brown crinkle paper and a few fabric fall leaves work well for this activity. Keep the filler shallow and leave some printed leaf pieces visible. Children can use their hands or suitable tweezers or tongs to find the pieces.

The activity can also be used in a tray without filler. Containers, fillers, and tools are not included.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- Adult supervision is required.
- This activity contains small loose parts and is not suitable for children under 3 or children who mouth materials.
- Choose fillers and tools with children's allergies, sensitivities, and individual needs in mind.
- Model safe tool use and replace damaged materials.

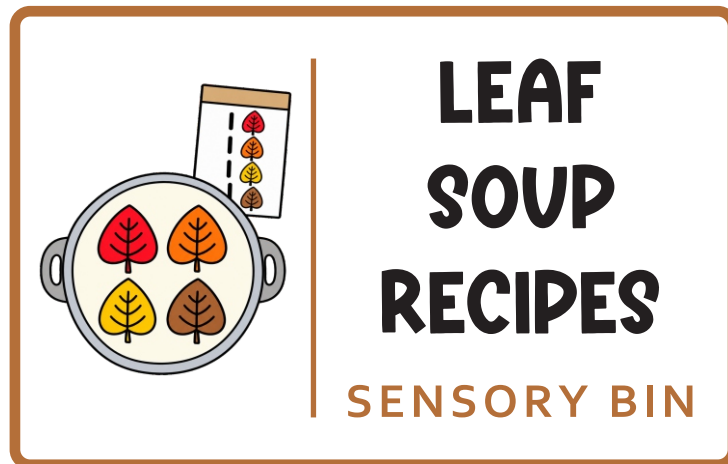
STORAGE AND CARE

Keep the soup pot mat, recipe cards, leaf pieces, and directions together in a labeled bag or container.

Count the pieces after play. Wipe laminated materials with a slightly damp cloth and allow them to dry before storing.

Happy Teaching! :)

STORAGE LABEL



LEAF SOUP RECIPES

Teacher Directions



YOU WILL NEED

- Soup pot mat and recipe cards
- Leaf pieces (two printed copies)
- Sensory bin
- Brown crinkle paper and a few fabric fall leaves
- Optional tweezers or tongs

PREPARATION

1. Print on cardstock.
2. Laminate for durability.
3. Cut apart the recipe cards and leaf pieces.
4. Add the filler and leaf pieces to the sensory bin.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Choose a recipe card.
2. Find and count the leaves shown.
3. Place the leaves inside the soup pot.
4. Clear the mat and choose another card.

DIFFERENTIATION

Begin with the first five cards, which use quantities of 1 and 2. Progress to cards with 3 and 4. Introduce the two cards containing 0 when children are ready to understand that 0 means none.

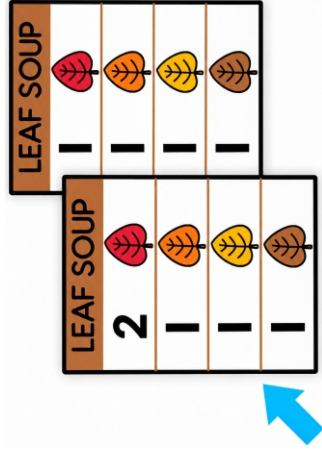
LEARNING FOCUS

Counting • One-to-one correspondence • Number recognition
• Color matching • Understanding zero • Following visual directions • Fine motor skills

LEAF SOUP RECIPES

How To Play

1



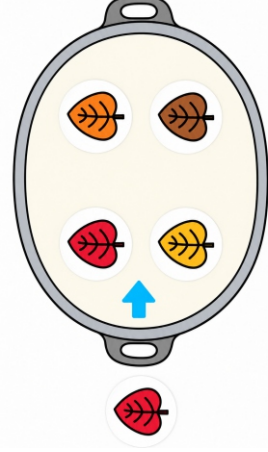
Choose a recipe.

2



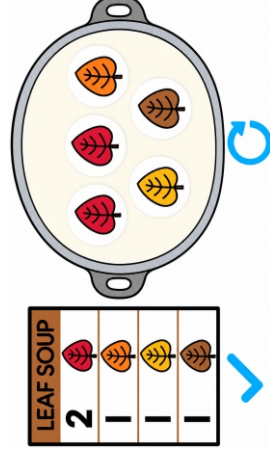
Find and count.

3



Add the leaves.

4

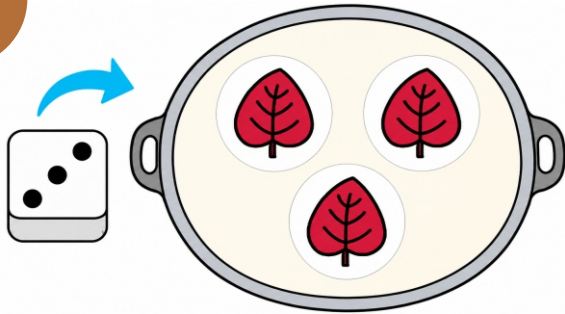


Check and
play again.

LEAF SOUP RECIPES

More Ways to Play

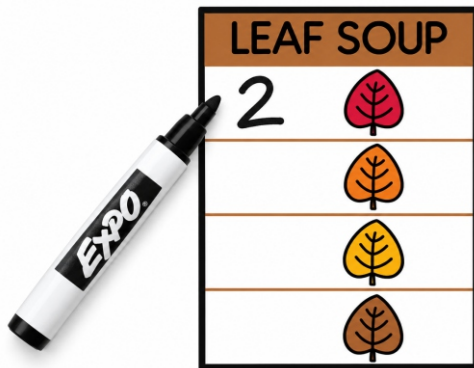
1



ROLL AND MAKE SOUP

1. Choose one leaf color.
2. Roll a die.
3. Find and place that many matching leaves on the soup pot mat.
4. Clear the mat and play again.

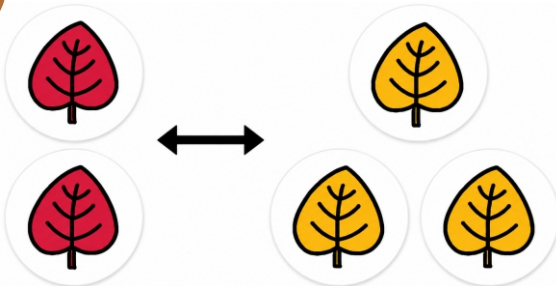
2



MAKE YOUR OWN RECIPE

1. Write a number from 0 to 4 beside each leaf on a blank recipe card.
2. Find, count, and add the correct quantity of each color to your pot.

3



COUNT AND COMPARE

1. Choose two leaf colors.
2. Find and count a group of each.
3. Compare the groups. Which has more? Which has fewer? Do they have the same number?

TEACHER TIP

Laminate the blank recipe cards for dry-erase use. Keep each recipe to 10 leaves or fewer.

LEAF SOUP

1



1



1



1



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LEAF SOUP

2



1



1



1



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1



2



1



1



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1



1



2



1



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