

Talls & Smalls To Go!



An Autumn Exploration

Talls & Smalls is our exploratory garden program for adults and children 5 and under. Talls & Smalls To Go! is an adventure crafted around the themes of read, learn, explore, create, and eat for you and your small to enjoy together. With our gardens closed, we created this guide for you to turn an outdoor walk into an opportunity to experience and learn about nature. We've linked books, questions, crafts, and a snack ideas for a Talls & Smalls experience outside our garden.

Read!

All of the activities in the sections learn, explore, create, and eat were inspired by a book. The underlined book titles in bold link to its read aloud video.

Learn!

Fall changes bring Fall questions. Below are questions or points of wonder about the season and books that can answer them, so you and your small can wonder and learn together.

How do pumpkins grow? How does a seed become a plant?

From Seed to Pumpkin by Wendy Pfeffer - Tells the story of how a small seed grows into a beautiful pumpkin. Available at select San Diego Public and County libraries and Chula Vista Libraries.

Why do trees and other plants have leaves? What do leaves do?

I am a Leaf/Soy una Hoja by Jean Marzollo - Explores the life cycle of a leaf. Available at National City Public Libraries & Chula Vista public libraries

Why do some leaves change color in the fall? How do leaves get their color?








Leaves Fall Down - Learning about Autumn Leaves by Lisa Bullard - Explains how leaves change colors. Available at Chula Vista Public Library








Explore!

Let's go outside and explore! We recommend **Tiny Perfect Things** by M.H. Clark. A great book to read before a walk about your neighborhood, a park, or anywhere you and yours might walk together looking for the small bits of beauty in the world. Available at select San Diego Public and County libraries.

Can you  : A red leaf on a tree? How about orange, yellow, green? A sunbeam on a cloudy day? A  ? Grass growing in a sidewalk crack? An ant carrying something on its back? A woman in a baseball cap? How about a  or a bumblebee flying about? A squirrel? A rabbit? A rainbow trout? Different shapes of leaves all around? How many different shapes have you found? An  ? An  ? A  on a porch? A  sitting on a web? What are some other things you think you'll see?

Can you  : A bird singing a friendly song? A cat meowing? A dog barking? A loud truck passing on the road? The gentle croaking of a silly toad? The wind blowing through the trees? The buzz, buzz, buzz of a  ?

Can you feel: A cool breeze? A crunchy leaf on the ground? A rain drop falling on your hand? A sunbeam shining on your face? The soft petal of an autumn flower? The tickle of a blade of grass? How about the  around you? A great big hug?

Create!



The fall was made for crafts, as it ushers in the decorative seasons. Our book selection for this section is **Leaf Man** by Lois Ehlert - a terrific seasonal book for young readers. Available at select San Diego City and County Libraries, National City Public Library, and Chula Vista Public Libraries.





Create!

Here are some easy to easy-ish crafts for Talls & Smalls to try together:

Create your own leaf man using fallen leaves and other found objects like small rocks, acorns, and branches. Give them a name and say hello and goodbye and maybe take a picture before the winds blows them to where the wind blows.

Pressed Leaves "Stained Glass" - If you gathered leaves during your walk, here's a fun way to make a "stained glass" collage using wax paper, leaves, and a little bit of glue.



For Talls & Smalls ready for a more involved crafting session, you can create these **leaf puppets** using, popsicle sticks, googly eyes, glue, and paint.

Eat!

Can you think of some the leaves we can eat?

There's lettuce, spinach, swiss chard, kale, broccoli leaves, herbs like cilantro, basil, oregano, rosemary, and more! What about the tops of celery?



You can make a fun snack to enjoy after your adventure by spreading a dab of peanut butter onto a celery stick and decorating with raisins, dried cranberries, and seeds to make your own tasty caterpillar treat.

What better book goes with the learning, exploring, and eating of leaves than **The Very Hungry Caterpillar/La Oruga muy Hambrienta** by Eric Carle. Available at San Diego City & County, National City, and Chula Vista libraries.

Thank you for joining us for a virtual adventure! We hope you had fun. If you took a picture of your leaf man or any of your adventures, please post them to Facebook or Instagram #OlivewoodTalls&SmallsToGo