

Sensory and Music Story: Harvest Festival!

This 'Sensory and Music Story' has been designed to be used either by a parent / carer and child at home, or as part of a in-person session at Little Havens.

Hints and tips:

Gather all the props before you start. If you do not have everything exactly, don't worry – any improvisations are fine!

Familiarise yourself with the story and what happens where. Think how you will use the props and songs to make the most impact and sense to the child you are working with.

It is natural to feel self-conscious about singing, but there are no 'X Factor' style judgements being made about your voice! If you can sing with more confidence and volume then that will make more of an impact – it does not matter if you are out of tune (or think you are!).

If you have other small instruments at home, you may want to use these with the child you are working with during the songs.

Read the story slowly, repeating the part of the story that has just been read when feeling the relevant props. If the child is responsive to a certain part – or you know from previous experience that they will enjoy something – then stay longer with that prop or song.

Props:

Water spray and umbrella

Rainbow – coloured scarves or paper etc

Flour, oats and cornflakes – or similar!

Fruit and vegetables

Dry leaves / paper leaves / foil blanket to 'crunch'

Fan to blow leaves around

Something spikey – like a hairbrush

Blanket to hibernate under

Cans of food

Big box to put them into to take to the foodbank!

The Story:

It's time to celebrate Harvest Festival!

Sing: We are going in to autumn

Harvest Festival always happens in the autumn. The weather's changing – there's definitely more rain –

Sing: Singing in the rain
Feel: Water spray, umbrella

It's doesn't rain all the time though – there's still some sun! Sometimes at the most unexpected times – like at the same time it's raining! Which makes the most amazing rainbow!

Sing: I can sing a rainbow
Feel: Rainbow coloured paper / fabric etc

Harvest Festival was traditionally always about celebrating the work that farmers do to provide all of our food! So we went to the farm to see what the farmer had been doing.

The farmer showed us that he had planted lots of different seeds in the fields to grow lots of different crops. He told us that when he planted the seeds, the birds tried to come and eat it, so he had to frighten them off with a scarecrow! The scarecrow didn't frighten us though!

Sing: Dingle Dangle Scarecrow

The farmer let us feel some of the different crops he grew, and what they were made into! The wheat he grew was made into flour, and there were some oats – and some other breakfast cereals! They all felt quite different.

Feel: Have three different bowls of different dry textures to feel - flour, oats and cornflakes.

The farmer grew lots of fruits and vegetable too – some of them were VERY BIG and some were VERY SMALL. They all felt and smelt quite different.

Feel: Fruit and veg

The farmer said that some extra special, extraordinary people get their food through a tube, sometimes in a special kind of milk – but that he didn't grow that on his farm, because he just wasn't quite extraordinary enough. It was hard work gathering all the harvest in!

Sing: Big Red Combine Harvester

It was a lovely day while we were at the farm. As we started to move around, we could just hear 'crunch, crunch, crunch...' What was it?

Feel: Crunch some dry leaves – or paper / foil blanket

The crunching sound was all the dry leaves in the ground that had fallen off the trees! Every Autumn the leaves on the trees turn from green to yellow and orange and red and brown, and then fall from the trees to the ground. Some of the leaves were still falling around us, and blowing around in the breeze.

Sing: Leaves are Falling

Feel: Breeze from a fan blowing leaves / paper around

There were starting to be big piles of leaves – I just wanted to jump right into the middle of them! We had to be careful - there might be a hedgehog in there! They hibernate somewhere warm and dark – and sleep right through the winter!

Feel: Something spikey – like a hairbrush- and a blanket to hibernate under!

Sing: I'm a Little Hedgehog

Before we went home there was one more thing to do – we had to have the actual Harvest Festival! We all went into one of the farmers barns, and lots of other people had come to join us.

Everyone had brought food to share. As well as celebrating and being thankful for all the food we have, at harvest we also think about people who do not always have enough food to eat. We had some cans of food to give away to Southend Foodbank – we each chose something to donate.

Feel: Each choose a can

Then we all put it in a special box, which would get taken to the foodbank to be given away to families who needed it.

Feel: Go up and put can into the box

We felt pleased we could take part in celebrating Harvest too, and we felt thankful that our families had enough food to eat. Then everyone sang a song together, all about fruit and veg!

Sing: Cauliflowers Fluffy

It had been a busy day celebrating harvest! As we headed home, the stars were already coming out above us.

Sing: Twinkle Twinkle

Song Words

We're all going in to Autumn! (*Tune: We're all going to the zoo tomorrow*)

We're all going in to autumn
Into autumn, into autumn
We're all going in to autumn,
Autumn days are here!

The leaves will fall, fall, fall,
From the trees growing tall, tall, tall
The weather's getting cool, cool, cool,
We're going to see it all, all, all!

I'm Singing in the Rain

I'm singin' in the rain
Just singin' in the rain
What a glorious feeling
I'm happy again.
I'm laughing at clouds.
So dark up above,
The sun's in my heart
And I'm ready for love.

Let the stormy clouds chase.
Everyone from the place
Come on with the rain
I've a smile on my face
I walk down the lane
With a happy refrain
Just singing,
Singing in the rain
Dancing in the rain
La ri la la ri la,
I'm happy again
I'm singin' and dancing in the rain
I'm dancing and singin' in the rain

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: Freed Arthur / Brown Nacio Herb

I'm Singing in the Rain lyrics © Emi Robbins Catalog Inc., Vmg Golden Records Worldwide, Emi Robbins Catalog Inc

I can Sing a Rainbow

Red and yellow and pink and green
Purple and orange and blue
I can sing a rainbow
Sing a rainbow
Sing a rainbow too

Listen with your eyes
Listen with your ears
And sing everything you see

I can sing a rainbow
Sing a rainbow
Sing along with me

Dingle Dangle Scarecrow

When all the cows were sleeping
And the sun had gone to bed
Up jumped the scarecrow
And this is what he said

*I'm a dingle, dangle scarecrow
With a great big floppy hat
I can shake my hands like this
And I can shake my feet like that*

When all the hens were roosting
And the moon behind a cloud
Up jumped the scarecrow
And shouted very loud

When dogs were in the kennels
And doves were in the loft
Up jumped the scarecrow
And whispered very soft

Big red combine harvester

Big red combine harvester
Big red combine harvester
Chug, chug, chug, chug, chugging away

Cutting the corn, combine harvester
Cutting the corn, combine harvester
Cutting the corn, combine harvester
Chug, chug, chug, chug, chugging away

Threshing the corn, combine harvester,
Threshing the corn, combine harvester,
Threshing the corn, combine harvester,

Chug, chug, chug, chug, chugging away.

Big red combine harvester
Big red combine harvester
Chug, chug, chug, chug, chugging away

Leaves are Falling *(to the tune of Jingle Bells)*

Leaves are falling
Leaves are falling
One fell on my nose!

Leaves are falling
Leaves are falling
One fell on my toes!

Leaves are falling
Leaves are falling
One fell on my head!

Leaves are falling
Leaves are falling
Yellow, orange, and red!

I'm a Little Hedgehog *(tune: I'm a little teapot)*

I'm a little hedgehog, Brown and small.
Very prickly,
Not that tall.
When I'm feeling frightened, Away I crawl,
And curl up into a ball!

I'm a little hedgehog, Build my nest,
When it's autumn, Leaves are best.
If you build bonfire,
Have you guessed? Check inside, I'm having a rest!

Twinkl

Cauliflowers Fluffy and cabbages green
Strawberries are sweeter than any I've seen
Beetroots purple and onions white
All grow steadily day and night

The apples are ripe and the plums are red
The broadbeans are sleeping in their blanket bed

Blackberries are juicy and rhubarbs sour
Marrows fattening hour by hour
Gooseberries hairy and lettuces fat
Radishes round and runner beans flat

The apples are ripe and the plums are red
The broadbeans are sleeping in their blanket bed

Orangey carrots and turnips cream
Reddening tomatoes that used to be green
Brown potatoes in little heaps
Down in the darkness where the celery sleeps

The apples are ripe and the plums are red
The broadbeans are sleeping in their blanket bed, Yea!

Twinkl/ traditional

Songs: public domain except where indicated.
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