



AMAZING AUTUMN

5 LEARNING INSPIRED ADVENTURES TO SEEK OUT THIS AUTUMN

Outdoor learning environments come alive in autumn. Leaves are blowing, puddles are forming, and grey skies provide a backdrop like no other. There are so many opportunities for incidental and planned learning in these spaces. Inspiration comes from tuning in and noticing these changes – big and small.

Our team has embraced the affordances of autumn to create programs for children, with a high-level of engagement from both the young and young at heart. Here are some ways to get started with creating your own *Amazing Autumn* experiences.

- 1 Collect coloured autumn leaves and thread them on string to make a necklace, garland or decoration. These may provide a great option for a sustainable Mother's Day gift.
- 2 Find dried-out autumn leaves and use them to make leaf stamps (paint one side of the leaf and then press it to paper.) Take this one step further and find out the name of the tree that the leaf has fallen from.
- 3 Make an autumn picture book with photos you have taken or sketches you have drawn. A nature journal for the season of autumn provides a stunning memory with colour and contrast throughout.
- 4 Go on a colour walk! Take a walk in your closest natural place, collecting as many different colours as you can, or pick a colour and see how many things you can find in that shade! You might even make a leaf rainbow from different coloured leaves you've collected.
- 5 Go on a micro-hike. Layout a piece of string 1-2m long. Crawl along the ground following your string trail and see what creatures or things you can find. Now see how many creatures you can find using a magnifying glass.

Please remember when collecting your items, to do so responsibly in order to reduce environmental impact and habitat disruption.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE NPSA TEAM

Lisa and I found our inspiration for autumn this year with a walk in the garden. We spotted tiny loose parts and began to make collections whilst we walked and talked and everything else fell into place. The colours, the smells and the textures immersed us in possibilities. Autumn leaves are a constant draw card too with so many creative ways to use them for play and learning. ~ Maria