

## Activities that go with the book *Apples on Top*

Find free clip art online or draw your own picture to cover a large plastic container (32 oz yogurt, cottage cheese, etc.)

Cut a slit in the cover.

Make apple shapes and model “putting in”

Talk about, involve child to tell a story while placing in

Skills practiced: fine motor pincer grasp and release, wrist rotation; visual perception, vocabulary practice, imitation



Use mat below and have child draw/color apples on the animal heads, or make your own apples to glue or use apple stickers to show apples falling from the sky.

To make reusable, try magnets, double sided tape, velcro.

Skills practiced: fine motor tripod grasp with crayons or markers, pincer grasp and release, visual perception, vocabulary practice, counting, sorting (use red, yellow, and green apples) animal noises and retelling of story



A product like this is available for purchase but if you are handy, and have materials, make this stacker. Drill holes, sand blocks... then let child paint blocks, glue or put stickers on the sides. Consider short and thicker dowel sticks for the younger children.

Skills practiced: problem solving, visual perception, fine motor stacking fine motor grasp and release, rotation; visual perception, vocabulary practice, imitation, animal identification and sound practice, retelling of **story**



How can you expand these activities?

What else around your house can be stacked?

What other animal figures could try to have items *up on top*?

Have family members try to stack beanbags, books, paper, washcloths, balls... who can put the most on their heads?

Everyone loves the sneezing game!!! Balance items on your head, oh oh! "Ah-ah-ah choo!" "There they go!" This can be hilarious, and encourage eye contact, joint attention, imitation, anticipation, impulse control, as well as practicing ba



## Apples on Top Coloring/Gluing/sticker page

Materials: crayons or markers or dot markers, stickers or small apple cut outs

Print out the page below or draw simple animal figures or cut out animals and place on a paper. Have two pages so you and your child (or sibling) can both have one.

Use markers or crayons to color. Free color is A-OK. If you want to model, on your own paper, you can show circles to see if your child can make circles on her page attempts that are circle-like are great!). You can demonstrate “dot, dot, dot” encouraging the motion and the word.

Allow him to place stickers or glue apple cut outs -anywhere on the page.

If it is important to you that they are placed on top of the heads of the animals, put a dot or a circle on the page and have your child practice matching the apple to the specified spot. If this is not fun, don't do it! Go back to freestyle! It's okay if the apples are just falling from the sky!!!

Talk about the animals, emphasizing body parts or animal noises. Emphasize the concepts up, on, top, and *up on top!*

In the end demonstrate counting how many apples are on the page and write the number on the top, if an older sibling is playing too, they can do the counting and writing!



## Playdough Fun APPLE themed

This activity is a great companion to the book *Apples on Top* by Theo Le Sieg, and certainly can be expanded for play, emphasizing other concepts.

You will need: playdough, plastic or rubber animals (easy to clean)

Optional: Pictures of a tree, apple basket, animals/cutters (plastic knives, popsicle sticks) rollers, playdough accessories

Starting with container of playdough, prompt child to request with a sign or gesture or a word -*playdough, open, help*. Open the container or have your child open it if it is something he/she is able to do. Give a small amount of playdough. Keep some for yourself to use, and to have on hand when your child is ready to ask for more.

Name the concepts big and small (little) as you demonstrate rolling balls of different sizes. Pretend they are apples. Make a playdough basket or use a small container to “gather” the apples. If you’ve read the book, put the apples on the animals’ heads and act out/match a book page.

Skills you are working on:

Pretend Play – have animals eat from a playdough bowl or “grass” or the apples you make Using attached template, have small balls become apples to place on the tree or in the basket.

Language and communication practice – Hold on to the materials at first so your child can request them from you.

Model and use words, signs, gestures – up, on, top, help, lion, dog, tiger, big, little, roll cut, poke, pat

Fine motor – pinching, grasp, visual motor planning

Social skill - Interaction with parents and siblings and friends



Apples up on top!





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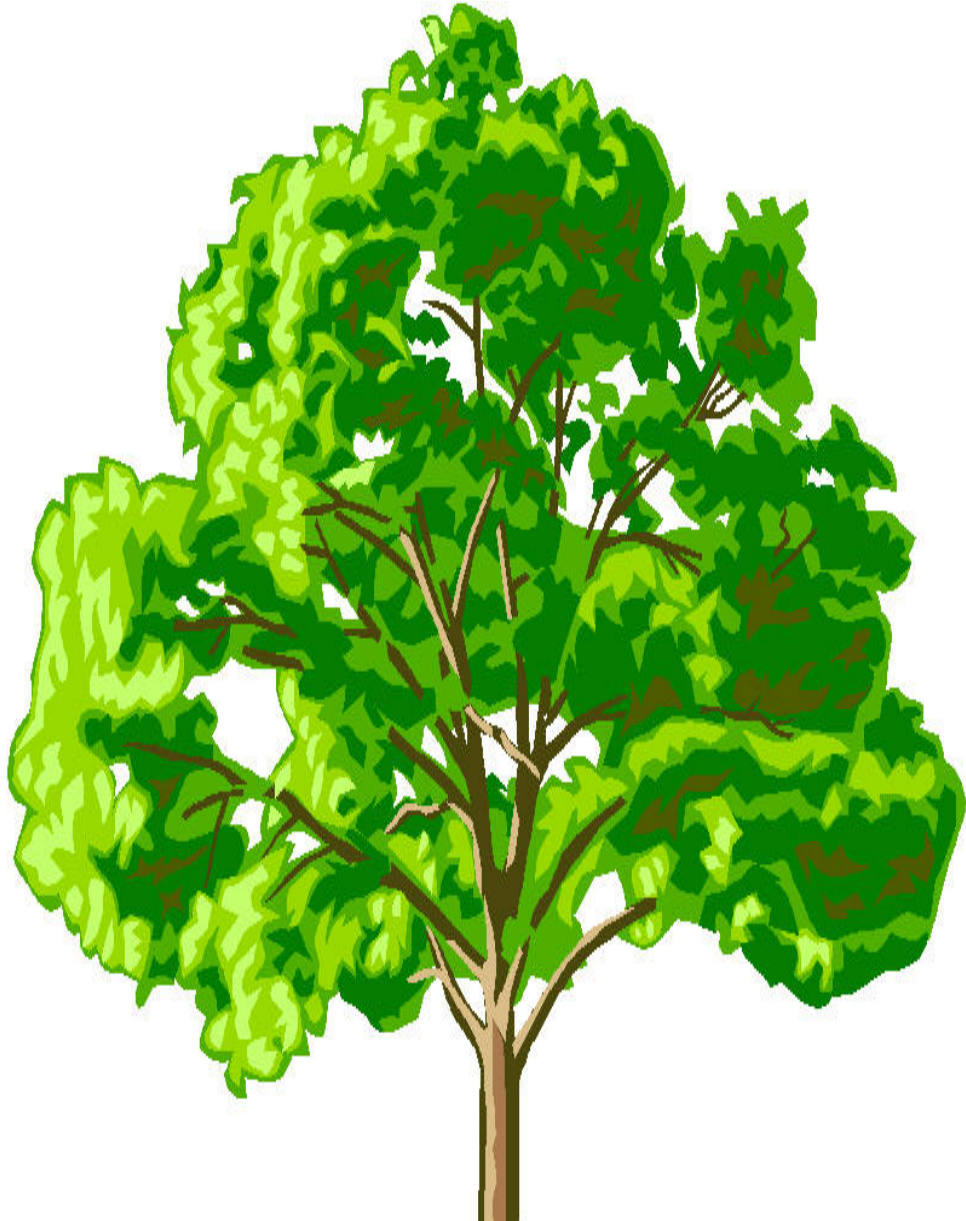
# Education Department At Home Learning





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