



Leaf Pile Play

Turn those big piles of autumn leaves into places for play and imagination.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Leaves
- Optional: a rake, small container to temporarily hold leaf critters, sliding board, or low tree branch

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use your hands or a rake to search through piles of leaves for creatures who might live there. To better observe the creatures you find, you can put them into a small container. Be sure to return the critters where you found them after a few minutes. Some creatures you might find include: sowbugs, overwintering woolly bear caterpillars, or centipedes.
2. To play, rake leaves into a big pile and then let your imagination run wild. Here are a few ideas:
 - Jump into the leaves.
 - Jump out of the leaves and scare people.
 - Make it “snow” by throwing big piles of leaves in the air.
 - Jump into a pile of leaves from a low tree branch or other elevated spot. For safety, make sure the tree branch no higher than your height.
 - If you have a sliding board nearby, slide into a big pile of leaves.
 - Use a big stick and pretend to “pole vault” into the leaves or “paddle” through the leaves.
 - How do you like to play in leaves?
3. Caution: ticks also like to live in leaves. Be sure to check yourself, or have a trusted adult check you, for ticks when you're done playing in the leaves.

