

Tiny Scholars Academy

September Curriculum Guide

Theme: Harvest, Nature & Change

Month:	September
Theme:	Harvest, Nature & Change
Age Groups:	Infants (6 wks–12 mo) • Toddlers (12–36 mo) • Preschool (3–5 yrs)
Standards:	Rhode Island Early Learning & Development Standards (RIELDS)

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MONTHLY OVERVIEW & LEARNING GOALS — SEPTEMBER

Big Idea: September invites children to observe the world shifting. Leaves begin to turn, harvests come in, and the air carries the first hints of fall. We explore change through science, celebrate local farms and food, and deepen our nature connections.

Monthly Theme Weeks

Week 1 Signs of Fall

Week 2 Farm Fresh & Harvest

Week 3 Leaves, Trees & Change

Week 4 Apples & Pumpkins

Guiding Questions

- What is changing outside? How do we know fall is coming?
- Where does our food come from before it reaches us?
- Why do leaves change color and fall?
- What grows in a pumpkin patch? How do things grow from seeds?
- How do animals and people prepare for colder weather?

■ Infant Room — Monthly Goals

- Strengthen visual tracking with fall color mobiles
- Explore new textures: smooth apple, rough gourd, crinkly leaf
- Develop auditory awareness through nature sounds (wind, rustling)
- Build gross motor: rolling, pushing, supported sitting
- Strengthen caregiver bonds through harvest-themed lullabies

■ Toddler Room — Monthly Goals

- Learn fall vocabulary: leaf, tree, apple, pumpkin, seed, harvest
- Develop sorting skills: by color, size, and type
- Explore concepts of change through nature observation
- Strengthen fine motor: scooping seeds, apple stamping, leaf rubbing
- Build number sense 1–5 through counting fall objects

■ Preschool Room — Monthly Goals

- RIELDS-aligned inquiry through fall and harvest themes
- Develop life cycle understanding: seed to plant to food (D5)
- Practice measurement: comparing sizes of apples and pumpkins (D4)
- Write and illustrate fall observations in science journals (D3,D5)
- Explore community connections: farm, market, grocery store (D6)
- Build vocabulary: 40+ fall/harvest words through read-alouds (D2)

INFANT CLASSROOM (6 wks–12 mo) — SEPTEMBER 4-WEEK CURRICULUM

Curriculum Approach: All infant learning is embedded in responsive caregiving routines. Ratios, safe sleep, and RIDOH licensing standards are maintained at all times. Outdoor time occurs daily in the buggy or on a supervised blanket.

Week	Theme	Objectives	Activities	Materials	Assessment
Wk 1 Fall Signs	Color Discovery	Visual stimulation; color tracking; outdoor sensory	Fall leaf mobile above play mat; textured red/orange/yellow sensory bags; outdoor wind sounds	Leaf mobiles, sensory bags, fall color rattles	Track visual focus duration; note reaction to colors
Wk 2 Farm	Texture Exploration	Tactile discrimination; smell; cause-effect	Touch-and-smell apple pouches; corn cob texture roll; smooth/rough pumpkin comparison	Apple pouches, corn cob, small gourds, sensory basket	Document texture responses; note smell reactions
Wk 3 Leaves	Nature Sounds	Auditory discrimination; gross motor; language bath	Leaf crinkle play; wind chime outside time; 'Falling Leaves' lullaby; leaf peekaboo	Crinkle leaves, wind chimes, leaf scarves, nature sounds recording	Observe auditory orienting; note motor responses to music
Wk 4 Apples & Pumpkins	Object Permanence	Object permanence; pincer development; social play	Apple rolling peek-a-boo; seed-in-cup sensory; apple slice visual tracking	Apples, seeds, peek-a-boo cloth, sensory cups	Note pincer attempts; document object permanence reactions

TODDLER CLASSROOM (12–36 mo) — SEPTEMBER 4-WEEK CURRICULUM

Curriculum Approach: Movement, language, and sensory learning drive the toddler experience. Centers rotate weekly with the theme. Predictable routines support autonomy and emotional regulation.

Week	Theme	Objectives	Activities	Materials	Assessment
Wk 1 Fall Signs	Weather Change	Fall vocabulary; observation; gross motor	Leaf hunt outdoors; fall color sorting; 'Leaves Are Falling' movement song; wind painting	Collection baskets, color sorters, wind painting supplies	Document new vocabulary; note sorting accuracy
Wk 2 Farm	Farm to Table	Food vocabulary; dramatic play; fine motor	Farmer's market dramatic play; apple and vegetable stamping; 'Old MacDonald' with puppets	Dramatic play foods, stamps, paint, animal puppets	Observe dramatic play themes; note food vocabulary
Wk 3 Leaves & Trees	Science Observation	Change concept; fine motor; prediction	Leaf rubbings; bark rubbings; sort leaves by size/color; press leaves in wax paper	Crayons, leaves, wax paper, iron (teacher use), magnifying glasses	Note prediction language; document sorting skills
Wk 4 Apples & Pumpkins	Counting & Sorting	Counting 1-5; size concepts; fine motor	Count pumpkin seeds; apple tasting (red/green/yellow); pumpkin face decorating; apple printing	Pumpkins, apples, seeds, counting mats, printing supplies	Observe counting accuracy; note size comparison language

PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM (3–5 yrs) — SEPTEMBER RIELDS-ALIGNED CURRICULUM

Standards Note: All activities are mapped to the 9 Rhode Island ELDS domains. Domain codes (D1–D9) appear in each activity. See the RIELDS Domain Reference in the June Curriculum Guide.

Week 1 — Signs of Fall ■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'Leaf Man' / 'Red Leaf Yellow Leaf' Leaf observation journal with watercolor (D2,D3,D5)
Math	Sort leaves by size, color, shape; create a Venn diagram (D4)
Science	Tree bark investigation: rubbing + magnifying glass; record textures (D5,D9)
Art	Leaf print collaborative mural; tissue paper fall tree (D7)
Movement	Falling leaf dance; 'Wind is blowing' yoga sequence (D8)

Week 2 — Farm Fresh & Harvest ■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'Pumpkin Pumpkin' / 'Eating the Alphabet' Farm vocabulary mini-book (D2,D3)
Math	Estimate and count seeds in apples and pumpkins; graph results (D4)
Science	Farm to table sequence: seed → plant → harvest → table (D5,D6)
Dramatic Play	Harvest market: pricing, money, buying/selling (D6,D4)
Art	Vegetable print art; harvest still-life drawing (D7)

Week 3 — Leaves, Trees & Change ■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'A Tree Is Nice' / 'The Giving Tree' Write: 'My tree gives...' (D2,D3)
Math	Measure tree trunks with non-standard units; compare tallest/shortest (D4)
Science	Why do leaves change? Simple photosynthesis explanation + color mixing (D5)
Social Studies	Why are trees important to our community? Map trees in schoolyard (D6,D9)
Art	Leaf watercolor resist; 3D paper tree sculpture (D7)

Week 4 — Apples & Pumpkins ■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World' Recipe writing/dictating: Our Apple Sauce (D2,D3)
Math	Compare weights: heaviest pumpkin vs. lightest; non-standard measurement (D4)

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Science	Apple decomposition: predict what happens to a cut apple; observe daily (D5,D9)
Cooking	Make simple applesauce together; discuss steps and ingredients (D5,D6,D8)
Art	Pumpkin carving design planning; spooky vs. friendly pumpkin faces (D7,D1)

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM — SEPTEMBER

Week: Signs of Fall

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM | Signs of Fall

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Farm Fresh & Harvest

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM | Farm Fresh & Harvest

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Leaves, Trees & Change

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM | Leaves, Trees & Change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Apples & Pumpkins

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM Apples & Pumpkins				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM — SEPTEMBER

Week: Signs of Fall

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM Signs of Fall				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Farm Fresh & Harvest

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM Farm Fresh & Harvest				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Leaves, Trees & Change

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM Leaves, Trees & Change				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Apples & Pumpkins

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM Apples & Pumpkins				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:

Reflections / Notes:	
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TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM — SEPTEMBER

Week: Signs of Fall

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM | Signs of Fall

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:

Reflections / Notes:	
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Week: Farm Fresh & Harvest

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM | Farm Fresh & Harvest

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:

Reflections / Notes:	
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Week: Leaves, Trees & Change

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM | Leaves, Trees & Change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Apples & Pumpkins

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM Apples & Pumpkins				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Welcome to September at Tiny Scholars Academy!

This month our theme is **Harvest, Nature & Change**. September invites children to observe the world shifting. Leaves begin to turn, harvests come in, and the air carries the first hints of fall. We explore change through science, celebrate local farms and food, and deepen our nature connections. Read on to see what's happening in each classroom and how to keep the learning going at home!

Infant Room: Our youngest learners explore the month's theme through all their senses! Ask your teacher about your baby's weekly sensory experiences.

Toddler Room: Toddlers dive into hands-on science, dramatic play, and language-rich activities. Send your child in clothes ready for messy, magical learning!

Preschool Room: Preschoolers engage with all 9 RIELDS domains through projects, investigation, writing, and creative expression. Portfolio updates go home at month's end.

Important Dates

- Sep 2 — Labor Day — Academy Closed
- Sep 4 — Fall Theme Launch Day
- Sep 10 — Farm Field Trip
- Sep 16 — Apple Tasting Day
- Sep 23 — First Day of Autumn
- Sep 27 — Harvest Celebration & Portfolio Review

Learning at Home

- Visit a local farm, orchard, or farmers market together.
- Collect leaves on a walk and press them in a heavy book.
- Cook a simple recipe together using fall vegetables.
- Ask: 'What changes do you notice outside this week?'
- Count seeds in an apple or pumpkin together.

NOTE: Please send a light jacket daily — outdoor time continues as weather permits.

This Month's Theme Weeks:

Week 1:	Signs of Fall
Week 2:	Farm Fresh & Harvest
Week 3:	Leaves, Trees & Change
Week 4:	Apples & Pumpkins

With warmth and gratitude,

The Tiny Scholars Academy Team ■