

Seasons of My Apple Tree: Summer

(Season's book)

It's that time again! Another season is upon us. Summertime brings lots of fun things! Now it is time to get ready to create another page for your book! For more craft activities and ideas, please visit www.signingtime.com and www.signingtimekids.org

Materials

- White sheet of paper (2)
- Brown construction paper (1)
- Red construction paper (1)
- Tissue paper (green and red)
- Tempera paint (green and red) (optional)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Marker

"Summer Fun!"

Sunscreen, sand and sun
Three main ingredients equal fun!
Crashing waves against the sand
The cool water runs right through my hands

Friends, family, fun
Summer is here, it has begun
Vacations to places near and far
Nothing like being stuck in the car!

Another season has come to call
What comes next, could it be fall?

Book Link

- **Summer Bridge Activities: Kindergarten to 1st Grade** by Julia Ann Hobbs
- **Summer** by Alice Low

Time to create!

Step 1: Using the brown piece of construction paper, have your child place his/her forearm up to the hand onto the paper. Your child's forearm and hand will be the tree. Using your pencil, trace your child's hand and forearm. Then cut it out. Have your child glue the tree onto the center of his/her white sheet of paper. Be sure to label your page "Summer."

Step 2: Now it is time to make your tree come alive! Using the green and red tissue paper, cut 1 inch squares. These squares will represent the green leaves and red apples. Using a pencil, take one square of tissue paper and place the tip of your eraser into the center of the square piece of tissue paper. Squeeze the tissue paper around the end of the pencil. Place a dab of glue onto the tissue paper (eraser portion of the pencil) and glue randomly into place on the hand portion of your child's tree. Continue doing this until the tree is covered with green "leaves" and red "apples." (You can also use tempera paint in place of tissue paper and have your child stamp green and red fingerprints onto his/her tree.)

Step 3: When your child has finished his/her tree, while it is drying, enjoy an apple with your child. Engage your child's senses. Talk about the color, texture, shape, smell, taste, etc. Then make a horizontal cut through the apple and show your child there is a star inside the apple! Using the red construction paper cut out an apple shape and write the "Summer Fun!" poem on it. You might also like to add a green leaf to make the apple come alive. Then paste it next to your child's tree.

Step 4: Using the second sheet of white paper, create a collage with your child by talking about some of the changes that happen in the summer. You might like to find and cut out those images from magazines, or newspapers that represent summer. Your child might even like to include family photos of different holidays your family celebrates or outdoor activities your family appreciates. This is a great opportunity to reflect on the special things your family does together during this season while capturing them forever in a "Seasons" book.