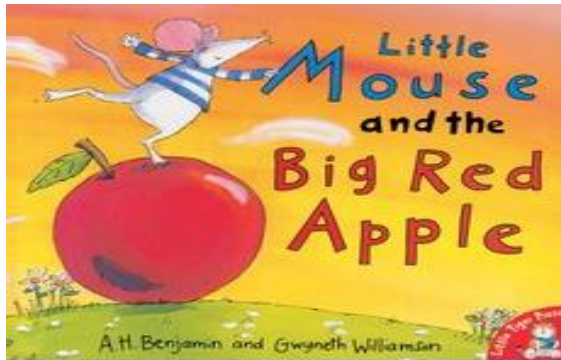


SEPTEMBER



A great book to read in September is **Little Mouse and the Big Red Apple** written by A.H. Benjamin and illustrated by Gwyneth Williamson. In this story, Mouse finds a big red apple. He is very hungry and attempts to take the apple home. Mouse runs into some obstacles along the way, and each time a friend helps and hints that they would like to share the apple. Mouse gets help from a Frog, Turtle (Tortoise), and Mole. Mouse

quickly runs away each time he is helped, not wanting to share the apple. When Mouse finally gets his apple home, the apple gets away from him and rolls down a big hill. He runs after it and finds that his friends have shared the apple. They think Mouse sent the apple down to them so they thank Mouse, who says "isn't that what friends are for?"

Questions:

Work on various wh questions while reading this story. Here are some questions to try:

Who found the apple? (Mouse)

Who kicked the apple out of the pond? (Frog)

Who dug a tunnel under the log? (Mole)

Who got the apple out of the prickly bush? (Turtle)

Where is Mouse taking the apple? (home)

Where did the apple go? (into the pond)

Where did the tunnel go? (under the log)

Where did the apple roll? (down the hill)

What did Mouse **do** with the apple? (roll/rolled it over and over)

What did the frog **do** with the apple? (kick/kicked it out of the pond)

What did the Mole **do** to help? (dig/dug a tunnel)

What did the friends **do** with the apple? (eat it, ate it)

Story vocabulary:

Characters: Mouse, Frog, Tortoise (Turtle), Mole

Places: house, pond, thorn bush bush, log, hill

Describing words: big, little, red, hungry, juicy, sharp, prickly, strong, steep

Special describing words: SPLASH, BUMP, CRASH, THUD

Action words: rolled, kicked, push, heave, grunt, groan

Themes: This is a great story to use when talking about **being helpful** and **sharing**

Tips for reading a book and asking questions:

Some children can pay attention while all of the words in a book are read. Others (many preschoolers) will need the book simplified. You can summarize each page after reading the words **OR** just use fewer words in the first place! For example, a page in the book says:

Mouse was feeling hungry one day when all of a sudden he came across a big red juicy apple.

This can be simplified to:

Mouse was hungry. He found a big red apple.

You can go through a book and place sticky notes on each page with a simplified version of the text on each page. Children who are minimally delayed in language may benefit from hearing all of the vocabulary in a story, but children with more language delay need the text broken down so they can understand it.

Asking questions: Ask questions while reading the story so that there are pictures to help cue the answers.

Point to the picture of a character and ask a question about the character, for example,

“Who found the apple?” (the mouse)

Give the answer first then immediately ask the question, for example,

“Look the apple is in the pond! Where is the apple?”

Gesture or pantomime an action while asking a question, for example...pretend to eat then ask,

“What did the friends do with the apple?” (eat it)

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES:

- If you are able to, go apple picking. Take pictures with your phone and make a slide show; help your child tell the story of your apple picking trip.
- Get several different colored apples (**green**, **red**, **yellow**); talk about how they are the same (they are all apples) and how they are different (different colors). Cut the apples and taste each one. Have your child choose which color apple they like best.
- Talk with your child about what you can make from apples-juice, applesauce, apple pie, apple cider, apple crisp, ???
- Make apple turnovers-chop up an apple, then sprinkle a little bit of cinnamon sugar on it. Use canned biscuits-separate them and have your child roll them out with a small rolling pin. Place a spoonful of apple filling on the biscuit and fold over; seal the edges by pressing with a fork. Bake at 350 for 10 minutes. Talk about each step as you make the turnovers using words like *cut*, *chop*, *sprinkle*, *roll*, *spoon*, *press*, *bake*.
- Do the "Way Up High in an Apple Tree" finger play with your child-

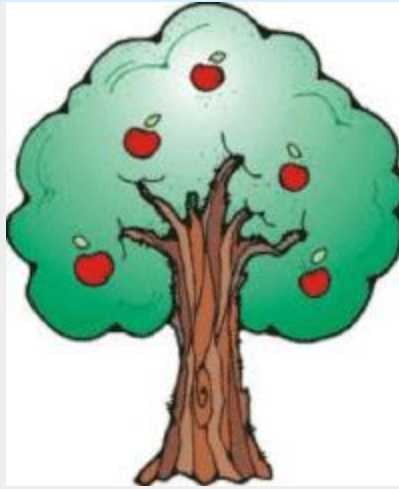
“Way Up High in an Apple Tree”

From the CD, “Children’s Favorite Autumn Songs & Fingerplays”
(Musical Arrangement)

©Monopoli/The Learning Station

By The Learning Station (To the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”)

Way up high in an apple tree, (Hold up both your hands and spread your fingers for pretend apple tree)



Way Up High in an Apple Tree

Five red apples smiled down at me. (Hold up 5 fingers)
I shook that tree as hard as I could, (Pretend to shake the tree)
Down came an apple! Mmmmm it was good!
(Rub your tummy in a circle motion)

Way up high in that apple tree,
(Hold up both your hands and spread your fingers for pretend apple tree)
Four red apples smiled down at me. (Hold up 4 fingers)

Way up high in that apple tree.
(Hold up both your hands and spread your fingers for pretend apple tree)
Four red apples smiled down at me. (Hold up 4 fingers)
I shook that tree as hard as I could. (Pretend to shake the tree)
Down came an apple! Mmmmm it was good!
(Rub your tummy in a circle motion)

Way up high in that apple tree, (Hold up both your hands and spread your fingers for pretend apple tree)
Three red apples smiled down at me. (Hold up 3 fingers)

Way up high in that apple tree. (Hold up both your hands and spread your fingers for pretend apple tree)
Three red apples smiled down at me. (Hold up 3 fingers)
I shook that tree as hard as I could. (Pretend to shake the tree)
Down came an apple! Mmmmm it was good! (Rub your tummy in a circle motion)

Way up high in that apple tree, (Hold up both your hands and spread your fingers for pretend apple tree)
Two red apples smiled down at me. (Hold up 2 fingers)

Way up high in that apple tree. (Hold up both your hands and spread your fingers for pretend apple tree)
Two red apples smiled down at me. (Hold up 2 fingers)
I shook that tree as hard as I could. (Pretend to shake the tree)
Down came an apple! Mmmmm it was good! (Rub your tummy in a circle motion)

Way up high in that apple tree, (Hold up both your hands and spread your fingers for pretend apple tree)
One red apple smiled down at me. (Hold up 1 finger)

Way up high in that apple tree. (Hold up both your hands and spread your fingers for pretend apple tree)
One red apple smiled down at me. (Hold up 1 finger)
I shook that tree as hard as I could. (Pretend to shake the tree)
Down came an apple! Mmmmm it was good! (Rub your tummy in a circle motion)

Way up high in that apple tree, (Hold up both your hands and spread your fingers for pretend apple tree)
No red apples smiled down at me. (Hide your hands behind your back.)

Way up high in that apple tree. (Hold up both your hands and spread your fingers for pretend apple tree)
No more apples smiling down at me. (Hide your hands behind your back.)
I shook that tree as hard as I could. (Pretend to shake the tree)
Down came no apples! They're gone for good! (Hide your hands behind your back.)

Way up high in that apple tree, (Hold up both your hands and spread your fingers for pretend apple tree)
No more apples left for me. (Hide your hands behind your back.)



Watch our ["Way Up High in an Apple Tree"](#) song on YouTube!