

## A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit

Use this toolkit to plan library programs as well as activities for the daycare, classroom, or family.

Meet Ohio author Carole Gerber and Massachusetts-based illustrator Leslie Evans.

Discover connections to the Five Early Literacy Practices in easy extensions that can be done at home, school, or at the library.

Explore fun activities that align with Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards.

# Leaf Jumpers

By Carole Gerber (author)  
and Leslie Evans (illustrator)



## About the Book

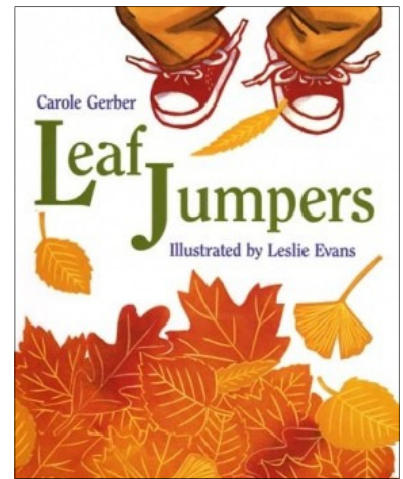
How many shapes and colors can you see in autumn leaves? Jump in and find out!

From the fiery red maple to the fan-shaped yellow ginkgo, autumn leaves make a perfect pile of colors, just right for jumping into. Carole Gerber's evocative text highlights eight common types of leaves, while Leslie Evans's hand-colored linoleum-cut illustrations bring the vivid colors of autumn to life.

Charlesbridge, 2004. ISBN 9781570914973.  
Ages 3-6. 650 Lexile.

<http://www.charlesbridge.com/productdetails.cfm?PC=4337>

Available as an ebook through the Ohio Digital Library:  
<http://ohdbks.lib.overdrive.com>



Book jacket image and book description used with permission by Charlesbridge Publishing, Inc.

## Get Ready To Read!

*Encouraging early literacy skill-building in young children.*

Many of the activities in this toolkit incorporate **five early literacy practices**, everyday activities that help children get ready to read. These practices are:

*Reading - Writing - Talking - Singing - Playing*

**Reading** to and with children is the most effective way to support reading readiness, as it develops six key early literacy skills: print motivation, phonological awareness, vocabulary, narrative skills, print awareness and letter knowledge.

**Writing** (or drawing and scribbling) helps children learn about print, letters, and vocabulary, and supports fine motor skills.

**Talking** helps children learn oral language – a critical early literacy skill – and also increases vocabulary and comprehension.

**Singing** slows language down so children can hear the different sounds that make up words, and develop vocabulary and phonological awareness.

**Playing** teaches children to think symbolically, practice self-expression, and put thoughts into words.

All of these practices lead to children being ready to learn how to read when they begin school.

Parents, teachers, and librarians can share these practices with children at home, in the classroom, or at the library. For more information, visit <http://www.ohreadytoread.org/>.



Photograph and biographical information courtesy Carole Gerber and Charlesbridge Publishing, Inc.; used with permission.

## About the Author

Carole Gerber has worked as a high school and middle school English teacher, an adjunct professor of journalism at Ohio State, a marketing director, editor of a company magazine, a member of creative teams at an ad agency and a hospital, a contributing editor to a computer magazine, and - finally! - as a writer of picture books, chapter books, elementary textbooks, magazine articles, speeches, annual reports, and patient education materials with such scintillating titles as **Your Heart!/Your Lungs!/Your Prostate!**

**Winter Trees**, a picture book walk through the snowy woods, was selected as a 2009 Outstanding Trade Book by the National Science Association and the Children's Book Council.

---

## Author Resources

**Carole Gerber's official website**

<http://www.carolegerber.com/>

**Author Page on Charlesbridge website**

<http://www.charlesbridge.com/contributorinfo.cfm?ContribID=18>

**Author Spotlight interview through Charlesbridge Press (PDF)**

[http://www.charlesbridge.com/client/client\\_pdfs/authors\\_illustrator\\_bios/CaroleGerber\\_QA.pdf](http://www.charlesbridge.com/client/client_pdfs/authors_illustrator_bios/CaroleGerber_QA.pdf)

**For publicity and speaking engagement inquiries:**

<http://www.carolegerber.com/visits>

---

## All Year Long

Did you know? **Leaf Jumpers** isn't the only tree-and-season centered book Carole Gerber and Leslie Evans have created:

For winter learning, consider sharing **Winter Trees** Charlesbridge, 2009. ISBN 978158089169. Ages 4-7.

In the springtime, consider **Spring Blossoms** Charlesbridge, 2015. ISBN 9781580894135 . Ages 4-7.

**Talk** about the sounds leaves make underfoot.

**Sing** "Autumn Leaves Are Falling Down" together.

Have each child **write** his or her name on a construction paper leaf, then hang them all up on the wall as a "tree".

---

## Practice It!

Here are some fun ideas for extending the story to include the five practices.

### Reading

Look at the cover of the book together. Point out the title, author and illustrator. Talk about what these things are and mean.

**Leaf Jumpers** uses poetic rhyming to help shape

the story. Ask children to listen for rhyming words. Share how rhymes may be hidden in stories.

### Writing

Just as leaves have special shapes that tell us what kind of tree the leaf is from, letters also have

shapes with special meanings. Have your child write the first letter of his or her name. Can you find this letter "hidden" in the shape or veins of any of the leaves in the book? Help your child draw a tree using their letter as the "leaves".

## About the Illustrator

Leslie Evans was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and grew up in suburban Detroit, Michigan. Graduating with a B.F.A. in printmaking from Rhode Island School of Design, Leslie became a poster designer at the Hopkins Center at Dartmouth. Leslie has worked as a designer and freelance illustrator for years.

Leslie has also illustrated over ten books for children, including **Hey There! Stink Bug** by Leslie Bulion, which won the ABC Best Books for Children Award. In addition, she drew on her family as subjects for many of the borders in **The Flower Alphabet Book** by best-selling author Jerry Pallotta.

Leslie continues her interest in printmaking by producing much of her artwork in her letterpress studio, the Sea Dog Press. Morgan, the press's namesake, frequently surfaces in her work. Leslie lives in Watertown, Massachusetts. You can visit her online at <http://www.seadogpress.com>.



Biographical information courtesy Charlesbridge Publishing, Inc.; used with permission. Photo credit: Christine Reynolds.

---

## Illustrator Resources

### Leslie Evans Illustration's official website

<http://www.seadogpress.com/illustration/index.shtml>

### Illustrator Page on Charlesbridge website

<http://www.charlesbridge.com/contributorinfo.cfm?ContribID=115>

---

### Playing

If dry leaves are available, build leaf piles for the children to play in. If leaves are not available on site, consider bringing dry leaves from another safe location in bags. Encourage children to wear long garments the day of leaf pile play.

If you don't have dry leaves, play a matching game with two sets of cards— one with tree names, another with leaf pictures. Consider adding a third set of cards with the descriptions of the leaves provided in **Leaf Jumpers**.

### Talking

Crisp autumn leaves make wonderful sounds! Ask what

kinds of sounds rustling leaves make while still on the trees. Do they make different, crunchier sounds when we step on them on the ground? What about when we're playing in a big leaf pile?

Ask the children if they know any words that sound like these sounds that leaves make.

### Singing

Encourage your child to move, imitating falling leaves and raking leaves into a pile, while singing this fall song (may be sung to the tune of **"London Bridge is Falling Down"**)

### **"Autumn Leaves are Falling Down"**

From the CD, **"Children's Favorite Autumn Songs & Fingerplays"** by The Learning Station

[www.LearningStationMusic.com](http://www.LearningStationMusic.com)

©©Monopoli/The Learning Station

*Autumn leaves are changing colors, changing colors, changing colors. Autumn leaves are changing colors all over town. (2x)*

*(Try adding motions the second time through each verse— for this verse, hold up both hands & turn them back & forth)*

*Autumn leaves are falling down, falling down, falling down. Autumn leaves are falling down, down to the ground. (2x)*

*(Hold both hands up high, as you wiggle your fingers & bring them down to the ground)*

*Take a rake and rake them up, rake them up, rake them up. Take a rake and rake them up, on the ground. (2x)*

*(Pretend to rake leaves)*

*Make a pile and jump in, and jump in, and jump in. Make a pile and jump in, on the ground. (2x)*

*(Pretend to make a pile of leaves & jump in)*

## Tie It In!

Using this book with Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards.

**Educators:** Here are examples of activities using **Leaf Jumpers** that align with Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards at the Pre-Kindergarten level (3-5 years). Other standards may also apply.

**Librarians, parents, and others:** The Ohio Department of Education adopted Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards to describe key concepts and skills that young children develop during the birth-to-five year period. The purpose of these standards is to support the development and well-being of young children and to foster their learning. For more information, including the complete set of standards, follow this link to the Ohio Department of Education site: <http://goo.gl/IE0xp>.

These activities are also great for library programs, family time, and playgroups.

### Language and Literacy

**Listening and Speaking – Expressive Language.** **Leaf Jumpers** includes many descriptive words with helpful illustrations. Talk to your child about how illustrations and context can help show the meanings of unknown words. Some words that your child may get to know through **Leaf Jumpers** and the illustrations provided include "vivid" (red maple), "slender" (white oak), and "oval" (birch)

**Reading – Letter and Word Recognition.** As you read **Leaf Jumpers** with children, help them to recognize and identify different letters of the alphabet. Practice pointing out some upper and lower case letters, including those in their first name. Explain how matching letters and their sounds is similar to matching leaves and their trees.

**Reading – Reading Comprehension.** After reading **Leaf Jumpers** together, ask the children what **Leaf Jumpers** is about. **Leaf Jumpers** is mostly non-fiction, though there are narrative elements. This is a good opportunity to introduce the difference between fiction and non-fiction texts. After reading the lesson on the science of fall leaves found in the last page, ask the children whether this section is pretend (fantasy) or reality. Connect the trees described in **Leaf Jumpers** with specific trees the children would be familiar with, to demonstrate that this story shows something about real-world trees.

### Cognition and General Knowledge

**Mathematics – Algebra: Group and Categorize.** Ask the children to categorize and sort the leaves mentioned in **Leaf Jumpers**. For example, what colors are the leaves? Can we sort the leaves into red, orange, yellow, and brown? What about pointy vs round leaves? Are some leaves hard to categorize?

**Mathematics – Geometry: Analyze, Compare and Create Shapes.** **Leaf Jumpers** introduces to a wide variety of fall leaves. Ask children to compare the leaves found in **Leaf Jumpers**. How are they similar? How are they different?

**Science – Science Inquiry and Application: Inquiry.** **Leaf Jumpers** introduces children to the shapes and fall colors of several tree species common in Ohio. Encourage children to observe a tree and determine if it is depicted in **Leaf Jumpers**. If not, teach them the tree species' name.

**Science – Earth and Space Science: Explorations of the Natural World.** **Leaf Jumpers** displays seasonal change that can be presented to your child as part of one of many natural cycles. Explore how the changing seasons are reflected in the leaves of deciduous trees.

**Science – Life Science: Explorations of Living Things** **Leaf Jumpers** explains that a tree's leaves make its food. Ask the children if they have a part of their body that makes their food. How is the way we get food different from the way trees get food? (Note: this also relates to the standard: *Physical Well-Being and Motor Development – Physical Well-Being – Body Awareness*)

**Choose to Read Ohio**, a project of the State Library of Ohio the Ohioana Library Association, and the Ohio Center for the Book, encourages public libraries, schools, families, and others to build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits: <http://library.ohio.gov/ctro>.

This toolkit revised  
June 2015.

STATE  LIBRARY OF OHIO

274 East First Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201-3692  
(614) 644-6910 ♦ [www.library.ohio.gov](http://www.library.ohio.gov)