



We Love Lois Ehlert!

Lois Ehlert, who has created numerous picture books celebrating nature, will celebrate her 75th birthday on November 9, 2009. Her books have introduced children of all ages to their natural world using die-cut pages, large, dramatic collages and other innovative book-making styles. Come listen to some favorite Lois Ehlert books, and create your very own imaginative Ehlert-inspired crafts.

Be sure to visit www.harcourtbooks.com/leafman/ for a biography of Lois Ehlert, as well as a listing of her books and activities for the title *Leaf Man*.

Check out the *Author's Note* sections of Lois's books in which she gives wonderful, personal insight into how she created her titles.

PROGRAM PLAN\$

Children, ages 3 and older will find this program to be fun, innovative and hands-on.

BOOK\$

Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert. Fall has come and the wind is blowing in so many different directions. Leaf Man has become caught up in the gusty gales and no one knows where he will land. During his adventures, he drifts over ducks and geese, prairie meadows and orchards. This book highlighted by illustrations of actual fall leaves and die-cut pages will reveal beautiful nature scenes and will encompass a child's budding imagination.

ACTIVITIES\$

Build Your Own Leaf Man... perfect for a beautiful fall program!

Supplies needed:

Crayons

Colored pencils

Tacky glue

Large piece of construction paper

Brass fasteners

- 1) Download the Leaf Man pattern from www.harcourtbooks.com/leafman/
- 2) Using crayons or colored pencils have the children color each leaf.
- 3) The children will then cut out each leaf and assemble their own Leaf Man using brass fasteners, or they may glue the pieces onto a sheet of construction paper.

Another twist on this craft would be to collect fall leaves of various colors and let the children create their Leaf Man using them. The leaves would need to be pressed between sheets of waxed paper with heavy books on top to flatten them for easier use.

Leaf Rubbings

Supplies needed:

Printer paper

Colorful fall leaves

Crayons (remove the paper for easier use)

This traditional craft is one that children will enjoy again and again. Collect leaves the day of the program, or have children bring in their own leaves from their backyard trees. Lay the leaf vein side up and place the paper over the leaf. Rub the crayon over the paper until the image of the leaf appears. Help the children identify their leaves by using the colorful guide provided within the endpapers of the book *Leaf Man*.

BOOKS

Snowballs by Lois Ehlert. This brightly illustrated story shows a snow family that has been created and decorated using ordinary household and natural objects. As you read the book to the children, point out the many objects used to create the snow family.

ACTIVITIES

Building a Snowman fingerplay/flannelboard

Depending on the size of your audience, you may build a flannel board snowman or simply do the actions as a group. This versatile activity is included in *LibrarySparks*, January 2007, p. 45.

Create your very own Snowballs

Materials needed:

8' white paper plates

Scissors

Tacky glue

Decorative objects such as popcorn kernels (popped and unpopped), fabric, ribbons, colorful string, yarns, peanuts, bird seed, berries, cinnamon sticks, pine cones, buttons, candy, twigs. The list is endless, just use your imagination!

- 1) Before the day of the program, glue three paper plates together to form a snow person."
- 2) Have the children use some of the objects listed above and their imaginations to create their very own snow person.

[More information or questions?](#)

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