

Our Realistic Fall Family Bucket List

1. **Make a pile of leaves in the front yard and jump in it.**
Yes, you'll probably have to rake them again. That's part of the fun.
2. **Find five different fallen leaves outside.**
See how many shapes, colors, and sizes you can find.
3. **Make hot chocolate at home.**
Bonus points for marshmallows, whipped cream, or a ridiculous amount of cinnamon.
4. **Paint your pumpkins instead of carving them.**
Less mess. No pumpkin guts. Everyone wins.
5. **Have a popcorn movie night at home.**
Pajamas encouraged. Blankets required. Cleaning up popcorn afterward is optional.
6. **Go on a fall color walk.**
You don't have to go anywhere special. Walk around your neighborhood and notice the changing trees.
7. **Bake something with cinnamon.**
Cookies, muffins, bread, or whatever you can manage.
8. **Buy a \$5 bouquet of grocery-store mums.**
You don't need a whole porch makeover to make your house feel like fall.
9. **Drink something warm outside.**
Coffee, cider, tea, or hot chocolate. Put on a sweater and stay for five minutes longer than necessary.
10. **Make a fall playlist.**
Let everyone in the family contribute a song.
11. **Go for a drive just to look at the leaves.**
No destination required.
12. **Make leaf rubbings.**
Grab some paper and crayons and turn those fallen leaves into art.
13. **Eat dinner outside on a chilly evening.**
Wrap everyone in blankets and call it an adventure.
14. **Make caramel apples—or just dip apple slices in caramel.**
The second option is considerably less sticky.

15. Have a family game night.

Pick an old favorite and embrace the inevitable arguing over the rules.

16. Take a picture on the first really “fall” day.

Not a perfect family photo. Just a picture of everyone as they actually are.

17. Make a simple fall craft.

Paper leaves, painted pinecones, cardboard pumpkins—use what you already have.

18. Go to a pumpkin patch if it works for your family.

And if it doesn’t? Buy the pumpkins at the grocery store. They still count.

19. Read a fall book together.

Bonus points if everyone piles onto the couch.

20. Make a batch of soup or chili.

Something that can simmer while your house starts smelling delicious.

21. Have a flashlight walk after dinner.

It doesn’t need to be late. Kids think walking around with flashlights is exciting at almost any hour.

22. Make a fall-themed dessert from a box mix.

There is no prize for making everything from scratch.

23. Collect a few beautiful things from outside.

Leaves, pinecones, sticks, acorns—whatever catches your eye.

24. Do absolutely nothing “fall-ish” one Saturday.

Stay home. Watch TV. Play. Nap. Wear sweatpants. Remember that rest is an activity, too.

25. End the season by talking about your favorite fall memory.

Ask everyone what they loved most. You might be surprised by what they remember.