Autumn colour
With your child, choose an autumnal tree you can stand under together.

When you arrive at the chosen tree, ask your child to close their eyes. Ask them:

What can you hear?
What can you smell?
What can you feel?

Look around you – what signs of autumn can you see?
Coloured leaves? Seeds? Animals?

Look up...
What can you see on the branches of the tree?

Can you see anything falling from the tree?

Look down...
What part of the tree is hidden under your feet?

Look at a variety of different trees together. What do you notice about their leaves?

Compare the shape, colour, texture and size.

Can you find a tree that's droppings its leaves?
Discuss why some trees lose their leaves in autumn and some don't.

Can you find a green, leafy tree that has:
- thick, shiny, waxy, smooth or spiky leaves
- needles
- cones
- berries

Did you know?
In Japan, observing seasonal change is a national pastime. In autumn, people take part in the annual tradition of momijigari (maple leaf hunting), seeking fiery forests of red maple trees and walking beneath the stunning foliage. Why not go on your own leaf hunt at our maple collection near the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art.