Read *Tap the Magic Tree* by Christie Matheson. This interactive book invites the reader to tap, rub, touch and wiggle illustrations of an apple tree through the seasons of the year.

Have children draw a picture of a tree. Write down what they tell you about the tree.

Talk about other living things (such as birds or vegetables) and discuss what happens to them during the different seasons of the year. This will expand children’s vocabulary and background knowledge about the seasons.

**Apple Tree Rhyme**

Way up high in an apple tree,
Five red apples smiled down at me.
I shook that tree as hard as I could,
Down came an apple! Mmmmm it was good!

(continue counting down 4,3,2,1)

Make the Magic Tree out of paper or felt and retell the story with the pieces.

*Early literacy practice for children ages 3-5.*

*Find these and other tips at [www.earlylit.net](http://www.earlylit.net).*

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**Explore Early Literacy Practices:** Read, write, talk, sing and play with children every day! When you engage in these practices regularly, you help young children develop essential early literacy skills that prepare them for reading and learning.

See other early literacy resources at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library).