

Nature Collage

Let's create art using natural materials! Children will observe, describe, compare, contrast and categorize natural materials as they create a collage.

STEM Focus: Science — Physical Science

Experiences Your Children Will Have

- Creating art by combining different materials
- Observing texture, shape, and weight of natural materials

Vocabulary

- Sticky: When something is gooey or tacky and things stick to it
- Collage: Art made by putting different materials together
- Examine: To look at something closely
- Collection: A group of similar items that has been gathered together
- Texture: How something feels (smooth, rough, bumpy)

Materials

- Contact paper (sticky side up) or paper with glue
- Natural materials (leaves, sticks, flowers, bark)
- Tape (to hold paper in place)
- A basket or bag to hold natural materials
- Optional: Magnifying glass

Beginning

- Tell your child, *Today we are going to make a collage using things from nature!*
- Show a few materials and explain, A collage is when we put different things together to make art.
- Demonstrate placing an item on the sticky contact paper. *You might say, I wonder what you will choose to add?*
- Invite your child to begin creating.

Middle

- Encourage your child to explore and add materials to their collage.
- Use the materials alongside your child and imitate how they use them.
- Talk about their choices. You might say, *You chose a big leaf, or, That one feels bumpy.*

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- Use the vocabulary words intentionally while interacting with your child.
- Use specific strategies below, depending on your child's age:
 - Infants and toddlers may explore the materials by touching, holding, mouthing, or putting materials on the paper and then taking them off. You can support your child by describing their actions: *You are pressing it down; You are tapping the pinecone on the paper.*
 - Preschoolers may choose materials and experiment with what sticks to the paper or sort materials into piles based on similarities. You can support your child by asking questions: *Why do you think that one sticks?; How are these materials the same?*
 - School-age children may represent something (person, house, animal) using the materials. Encourage them to plan out their idea before creating it. You can support your child by prompting their thinking: *What materials do you need to make your creation?; How are you going to put the materials together to make your _____?*

End

- As you notice your child begin to lose interest, give them a warning that you are going to put the materials away. You might say, *In a few moments we are going to clean up. You can try out one more idea with your collage.*
- Encourage your child to help you clean up the materials and put them away together.

Additional Learning

- Go on a nature walk to collect more materials. Encourage children to sort objects in a variety of ways using a muffin tin.
- Use a magnifying glass to look closely at materials.