

How to use nature to create art outdoors

In this activity, let children explore the beauty of nature and use what they can find around them to create a piece of artwork.

Learning aims

- To explore and experiment with a range of materials
- Develop children's own ideas and express themselves
- Use everyday materials to represent their ideas and be creative
- To work collaboratively with others.



Resources

- Access to a range of natural resources outdoors for children to collect. (Before the activity, look around your outdoor space to see what children can forage. There may be an abundance of things or you may wish to enhance this by adding resources for children to collect such as pebbles, shells, pine cones and flowers)
- Containers for collecting foraged resources
- Space to create!

Activity Outline

1. Explain to the children that today they are going to forage (search) for natural resources outdoors, which they can collect and use to create their own artwork
2. Provide children with containers, and encourage them to work together to collect a range of items around the garden, thinking about what they may do with them as they are collecting
3. Once the children have collected their resources, you can lead them to the space where they can begin creating their artwork
4. Children can combine all of the collected resources together if they choose. They may wish to sort these into piles of similar objects so they can see what they have available
5. Encourage children to explore, play and create with the resources. Children can work independently, alongside each other, or together creating their own artwork
6. Engage in conversation with children about their creations and what they are doing.

Extending the activity

- Leave the resources out for children to add to
- Support the children to capture images of their artwork. These could be printed, laminated and displayed outdoors to spark inspiration for other children
- Add in a malleable resource, such as mud or clay, for children to press foraged items into.

Special considerations

- *Ensure that the resources children collect are safe to use in line with risk assessment procedures.*