

Making a cone animal

Learning aims

- To be able to join different materials and textures together
- To start to explore colour and colour mixing
- To start to draw with increasing complexity and detail.

Resources

- Paper plates
- Variety of shapes and sizes of card
- Paint
- Cotton wool
- Tissue paper
- Scraps of fabric
- Scissors
- Glue.



Activity Outline

The outcome for this activity is for children to create animals associated with springtime using a variety of materials. If you have lambs nearby, go on a walk to see them, take some photos, look at some videos on the internet and share some stories together. If possible visit a farm so that children can see, handle and touch the animals.

1. Introduce the resources to the children and talk about which animal they would like to create
2. Show children how to fold a paper plate in half then cut along the fold and bend it to make a cone. This is for the body of their animal
3. They will need to use the reverse side of the plate as the front is shiny so they won't be able to paint on this side
4. Have a variety of shapes and sizes of card available if children want to make a flat representation of their animal
5. Encourage the children to explore the range of materials and talk about their properties
6. Use open ended questions as you explore the materials e.g. "I wonder what would be the best materials to create the eyes?" or "How could you make your lamb look fluffy?"
7. If you provide only primary colours and white, children can explore colour mixing e.g. if they want to create pink for a piglet
8. Allow children to have full creative control of their animal. For example, if they want to create a purple ducking. Your role is to facilitate their choices and support their thinking
9. Older children can be encouraged to include more details, such as adding the pupil when they make an eye. Use the photos and books to support their ideas
10. Once the child has finished creating their animal, support them to join the edges of the plate together so it creates a cone. You can either glue or staple the edges together. This is best done when the glue and paint have dried.

Extending the activity

- Provide a tuff tray lined with green material and small wooden blocks so the children can use their animals to make a pretend farm with enclosures
- Read the children stories connected with springtime, such as ‘We’re Going on an Egg Hunt’ by Martha Mumford while the children use their animals to act out the story
- Share non-fiction books with the children, such as ‘Everything Spring’ by Jill Esbaum, to talk about the animals and life cycles in more detail.

Special considerations

Resources and activities with children must always be risk assessed including for allergies. Children should always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials should always be appropriate for an individual child’s age and stage of development.