



Activity 1

Title:

Natural Collage

Aims

To explore colour, shape, texture and pattern, using natural objects found out of doors.

Possible setting

Early years settings, woodland, local park.

What you need

- A suitable surface for the collage to be constructed (either a marked-out area on the ground, on a piece of mesh/netting or on a large sheet of paper/card e.g. wallpaper. N.B. If using paper/card, items would not need to be glued).
- Some 'natural found' material such as leaves, pine cones, twigs.

Preparation/setting up

- If using mesh/netting or paper/card make sure it is securely attached to the ground. Identify a suitable area for the activity. If your outdoor area does not have much found material, you may like to have collected some from a previous visit with the children or provide baskets of suitable resources as appropriate. Decide on some simple rules' e.g. do not pick or uproot any plants, give examples of suitable objects to collect and explain the extent of the area to be explored.

Risk Management

Follow the policy of your school/early years setting with regard to risk management.

Examples of typical safety measures for this activity include:

- *Check area and materials prior to use*
- *Appropriate footwear/clothing for all participants*
- *Wash hands after the activity*

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What to do

- Share activity aims with everyone
- Show the children an example of a collage or pictures of collages. Examples could be taken from the work of: <http://www.timpugh.co.uk/> or Andrew Goldsworthy <http://www.goldsworthy.cc.gla.ac.uk>
- Explain that they are going to make their own collage using natural materials found out of doors.
- Discuss, explain and demonstrate the agreed rules for collecting (see above).
- Explore the outdoor area with the children and show them how to attach the found objects to the mesh or position them on the ground in your collage area. If using netting, they may be able to push the items through or attach them with pegs.
- Talk with the children about what they have found and where they will put them on the collage. Encourage the children to stand back and reflect on their creation, encouraging them to modify their ideas as they go along.
- If possible leave the collages outside for others to view.

Questions to ask / vocabulary or discussion opportunities

- Why have you chosen that object?
- Where will you put it on the collage? Why?
- Are there any other parts of the collage that are the same as your object?
- Do you know what it is called?
- What does it feel like?

Range- extension activities / development / further ideas

Children could be encouraged to:

- take photographs of the collages to use as cards or to record their learning
- make smaller individual collages
- contribute to a word bank of adjectives, describing how the items feel, and their appearance
- look in reference books to identify the objects that they have found.

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What do the children do?

- Searching
- Choosing
- Carrying
- Sorting
- Discussing
- Cooperating

Possible skills to be developed

- Exploring and experimenting
- Mixing, shaping, combining and arranging materials to create their own images
- Playing and working cooperatively
- Communicating and expressing their ideas, feelings and memories creatively
- Planning, developing and reflecting on their work.

Targeted FP outcomes

- **KUW.FPO1**; explore objects and materials within immediate and familiar environments
- **CD.FPO2** assemble materials into artefacts that have meaning to them
- **PSD FPO 3**: begin to understand that all living things should be treated with care, respect and concern