



Collect, explore and create with the colours of autumn

Materials

- A basket, bag or container for collecting leaves
- A selection of fallen autumn leaves
- Paper or card
- Glue
- Crayons or coloured pencils
- Optional: paint, coloured paper and other natural materials such as twigs or conkers
- For a colour-matching trail: coloured paper, paint cards or crayons

Please only collect leaves and natural materials that have already fallen to the ground. Leave living plants, flowers and wildlife undisturbed.

How to play

Activity 1: Autumn Colour Collage

1. Head outside together and look for leaves in as many different colours as you can find. Can you spot red, orange, yellow, green and brown?
2. Encourage your child to describe the leaves. Are they big or small? Smooth or crunchy? What colour are they? Can they find two leaves that look the same?
3. Once you're back inside, arrange your leaves on a piece of paper or card to create an autumn picture. You could make a tree, an animal, a colourful pattern or simply arrange the leaves from lightest to darkest.
4. Add drawings, paint or other natural materials to bring your autumn creation to life.

Activity 2: Colour-Matching Trail

1. Choose several autumn colours and make simple colour cards using crayons, coloured pencils or paint.
2. Take your colour cards with you and see if you can find something in nature to match each one.
3. Place each leaf or natural object next to its matching colour. Can your child find a leaf that is exactly the same shade? What happens if it is a little lighter or darker?
4. For older children, see how many different shades of one colour they can find. Can they arrange them from lightest to darkest?

How Does This Benefit Children?

Observation and Exploration - Children are encouraged to look closely at the world around them, noticing differences in colour, size, shape and texture.

Early Maths Skills - Sorting, matching, comparing and arranging objects helps children develop early mathematical thinking and an understanding of similarities and differences.

Creativity and Self-Expression - Creating a collage gives children the freedom to make their own choices, experiment with materials and express their ideas creatively.

Language and Communication - Talking about what children can see, feel and find introduces new vocabulary and encourages them to describe and explain their discoveries.

Physical Development - Collecting leaves, carrying a basket and arranging materials supports coordination and develops both fine and gross motor skills.

Connection with Nature - Exploring outdoors helps children develop curiosity about the natural world and encourages them to notice and understand seasonal changes.

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