



Make a special seasonal decoration

There is something wonderful about creating something with your own hands, especially when you make it for someone special. This activity invites children to design and create their own seasonal decoration to hang at home, give as a gift or add to a nursery display.

Materials

- A piece of cardboard
- Fallen leaves or other safe natural materials
- Paints or coloured pencils
- Glue
- Child-safe scissors
- String or ribbon
- Optional: stickers, stamps or other craft materials

How to play

1. Cut a simple shape from cardboard, such as a leaf, star, heart, circle or your child's favourite animal.
2. Let your child decorate their shape using paint, pencils and natural materials. They could arrange fallen leaves into a pattern, create their own colourful design or make a picture.
3. Encourage your child to choose the colours and materials themselves. They could add their name, initials or a special pattern that they have created.
4. Once the decoration is dry, an adult can make a small hole at the top and thread through a piece of string or ribbon.

5. Hang the finished decoration somewhere special at home or give it to someone your child would like to make something for. Talk about why they chose to make it for that person and how they think they might feel when they receive it.

How Does This Benefit Children?

Creativity and Self-Expression - Children can experiment with colours, textures and materials while making their own creative choices.

Fine Motor Development - Painting, drawing, cutting, sticking and arranging materials help develop hand strength, dexterity and coordination.

Confidence and Independence - Allowing children to decide how their decoration looks gives them ownership over the creative process and builds confidence.

Emotional Development - Creating something for another person encourages children to think about relationships and how their actions can make someone else feel.

Language and Communication - Talking about their creation encourages children to describe their ideas, explain their choices and develop new vocabulary.

Imagination and Problem-Solving - Children can experiment with different materials and work out how to turn their ideas into a finished decoration.

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