

Autumn Lantern

This DIY activity will encourage the children to explore their neighbourhood to collect the items needed to make the lantern. The children will be able to use their lantern to go into their backyard in the nighttime to read, share stories (scary and funny), play games, etc. as it can be used as a light source. The children will be using their fine and gross motor skills and their problem-solving skills to create this lantern.

What you need:

- White/cream tissue paper
- Leaves (all different colours and sizes)
- Flowers (optional)
- Glue or Modge podge glue (used for crafting)
- Battery tea light candle
- String
- Wooden embroidery frame (you can find these in the dollar stores)



What to do:

1. Go around the neighbourhood and collect different colours and sizes of leaves and flowers if they are still around. Let them dry overnight so that they are easy to glue onto the tissue paper
2. Take your frame and cut two pieces of string long enough to stretch from one side of the hoop to the other (plus a little extra for tying). Tie the ends of the strings to the hoop to make a cross (X) shape and secure the knots with masking tape. This is the handle of your lantern.
3. Take 3 large sheets of tissue paper lay them out flat. Carefully glue your autumn leaves onto one side of the tissue paper. Be very careful, as the tissue paper is very delicate. Be sure to put the glue on the side of the leaf that is the most colorful. This ensures that the pretty colors shine through the tissue paper. Remember to leave some white tissue paper showing so your light will shine through. Allow the tissue paper to completely dry for at least an hour.
4. When your leaf covered tissue paper is fully dry, carefully glue the seams of the tissue paper together so that you have a circular lantern.
5. Cover the rim of the circular frame with glue. Lay the frame on its side and carefully line the rim of the frame with the white tissue paper, leaving an inch or two at the top. Glue the top of the tissue paper onto the frame, leaving the sides and bottom hanging open. Fold the top down over the hoop, all the way around.
6. Cut the bottom of the tissue paper to the size required and fold it onto itself a few times. Add a layer of glue so that the paper overlaps, creating a bottom to close your lantern.
7. Cut a small piece of cardboard into a circular shape which will be used to line/support the bottom of your lantern. Carefully use a little bit of sticky tape and stick 2-3 battery operated tea lights to the cardboard. Place the piece of cardboard gently into the bottom of the lantern with the tea lights secured to it.

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