

Leaf and Pinecone Painting

Introduce little ones to the colours and textures of nature with this fun, hands-on painting activity. Using leaves and pinecones as paintbrushes, children will explore shapes, patterns, and the joy of creating something all their own – it's also a great activity to do outdoors!

What you need:

- Washable, non-toxic paint (3-4 bright colours)
- Large sheets of paper or paper plates
- Fresh or dried leaves (different shapes and sizes)
- Pinecones (small to medium size)
- Smocks or old t-shirts
- Plastic trays, paper plates, or shallow containers for paint
- Table covering or plastic sheet for easy cleanup



What to do:

1. Lay down a plastic tablecloth or a large garbage bag to protect surfaces.
2. Set up the painting area either outside or near a washable surface indoors (pour small amounts of paint into shallow containers or onto paper plates.)
3. Let the children touch and explore the leaves and pinecones before painting, using simple language like "this is a bumpy pinecone." "Feel the soft leaf."
4. Show how to dip the pinecone or leaf into the paint and then press or roll it onto the paper.
5. Let them explore – encourage little ones to try stamping, dragging or dabbing the items
6. Lay flat to dry
7. During clean up, set out a bucket of warm water and let the little one's "wash" the leaves and pinecones for added fun (and keep any extra leaves and pinecones for future sensory bins and/or sorting games.)



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