

Clay Impression Nature Jewelry

The children will be using their fine and gross motor skills in this activity. They will be going for a walk around their neighbourhood to collect leaves and flowers, and they will be using their gross and fine motor muscles to roll and knead the clay flat. As they paint the impressions they made on the clay, they will be using their small muscles (i.e. pincer grip). The children will also be learning about how to make different impressions of items which will provide an opportunity to use their cognitive skills (i.e. cause and effect).

What you need:

- Modelling clay (can be bought at a dollar store or a craft store)
- Rolling pin or empty bottle to roll the clay flat
- Various nature items like leaves, twigs, flowers
- Paint (acrylic paint is the best for this project)
- Jewelry string and clasp (found at a dollar store or craft store), or string



What to do:

1. Collect various items in nature with the children
2. Give each child a piece of modelling clay, and ask them to roll/knead the clay flat
3. Cut the clay in squares or other shapes with cookie cutters and make impressions with the objects the children collected on their walk (ie press a leaf or twig into the clay)
4. Show the children how to make impressions of the items they have collected, making sure that they press firmly on the item to make a nice deep impression. Make a small hole at the top of the clay to thread the string
5. Leave the clay outside in the sun to dry up for few hours or even overnight
6. After the clay is dried, ask the children to paint their impressions on the clay. After the paint is dried, help the children thread the string into the hole to make a necklace for someone special
7. They can also make a windchime by hanging different clay pieces on a piece of wooden stick and then hanging it outside or near a window

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