



Take It Outside

Creative: Eco Printing



Introduction

This outdoor printing activity enables children to create beautiful prints using natural materials and hammers. This activity produces some beautiful results and is perfect for seasonal exploration of leaves in summer or autumn.

You will need:

- Thick white paper or card. White cotton fabric can be used for a more permanent piece.
- Kitchen roll.
- A selection of leaves and flowers which can be collected by the children.
- A flat surface such as the top of a log or a chopping board.
- A thick stick, pestle (from a mortar and pestle) or small wooden hammer is ideal.
- Optional – masking tape.

Key Questions

- What was hard?
- What was easy?
- What did you learn?
- What are you proud of?
- What would you like to do differently?
- Which is your favourite part?
- What can you make with your eco printing?

What to do:

1. Explain to the children that today they are going to produce some very special artwork using things they can find outside. Explain to the children that they do not have any paints or pens with them, but that they are going to make something colourful anyway. Ask the children to choose some leaves and flowers from the outdoor area. Provide them with clear guidance about which they may, or may not pick.
2. Once children have collected their items, demonstrate the eco printing process.



3. On your flat surface, place your leaf on the thick white paper or fabric. Cover with several sheets of kitchen paper. You can use masking tape to stick the leaves and flowers down for a more accurate print.
4. Using a thick stick, pestle or small wooden hammer, start hammering on top of the leaves.
5. You should see some pigment coming through the layers of kitchen roll.
6. Gently peel away the kitchen roll to reveal the print beneath.
7. Display your printed design proudly! Challenge the children to think of a use for their printed design. These may include flags, bunting, cards or just a mounted art print.
8. Review the children's work using the questions above. Encourage children to give peer feedback sensitively.

Ways to Support

Some children may need help with fine motor skills such as keeping the fabric/paper/leaves still whilst hammering. Masking tape the printing down to the flat surface to support these children.

Ways to Extend

Children can create more complex designs by hammering accurately. They may even be able to hammer in letter shapes to create initials from their name or short words/phrases.

Curriculum Links

Art and design: Use a range of materials creatively to design and make products, Use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination, Develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture and line.