

Bundled Q-Tip Tree



Trees

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Toddler
1.5 - 2.5 years

This fun art activity is a fascinating way to create vibrant fall trees with q-tips. Easy enough for toddlers to hold and challenging enough for older preschoolers to create wonderful masterpieces!

Learning Outcomes

Domain:

Physical

Indicator:

Using the palmer grasp to hold tools

Skills:

Fine Motor



Materials

- Paint (orange, yellow, brown, and red for fall colors)
- Paper/canvas
- Q-tips
- Rubber band
- Plate/pallet
- Black/brown marker/paint



Instructions

Step 1: Start by creating your tree and its branches with your black/brown marker or paint — the more branches the better!

Step 2: Once dry, add a few dollops of paint to a plate/pallet of your fall colors.

Step 3: Grab a handful of q-tips (about 10-15) and wrap an elastic around the bundle in the middle.

Step 4: Take one end of the q-tips and dip a few in one color, turn the bundle and dip it in another color and so on until all of the q-tips have paint on them.

Step 5: Using a dabbing motion, dab the branches with the q-tip bundle creating a brightly colored tree!



Age Adjustments

For older preschoolers: Older children will love blending the colors together. Add a dollop of white or grey to create lighter/darker hues of each color.

For younger toddlers: This activity is great for younger toddlers because they may not have developed the ability to hold something using the pincer grasp (first finger and thumb), so they can hold the bundle with their whole hand making this super accessible!



Playful Questions

- What happens if we mix orange with white?
- Why do you think the leaves change colors on the trees outside?
- Have you ever seen a leaf fall from a tree?
- What colors do you see in the springtime on trees?
- Where do the leaves go in the winter time?