

Spring Leaf Experiment



T/P
Toddler/Preschool
1.5 - 5 years

This is a fun little science experiment that the kiddos will love coming back to each day. After placing leaves and food coloring in water, watch the leaves magically transform by changing colors before your very eyes!

Learning Outcomes

Domain:

Cognition

Indicator:

Responding with joy to the predictable outcomes of exploration.

Skills:

Cause and Effect Exploration



Materials

- Leaves
- Scissors
- Clear glass or jar
- Water
- Dark food coloring
- Magnifying glass (optional)

Instructions

Step 1: Take a walk outside and collect various leaves.

Step 2: Use scissors to cut the bottom off of each leaf stem.

Step 3: Place several leaves inside of the glass without overcrowding them.

Step 4: Fill the glass with water until the stems are covered with 1-2 inches of water.

Step 5: Add several drops of food coloring into the water and stir.

Step 6: Watch the glass over several days as the leaves begin to change color!

Document as you go. Take a picture each day so you can see how much the leaves change throughout the experiment.



Age Adjustments

How do I adapt this exercise for older kiddos? Help build vocabulary by recording observations of how the leaves look on day 1 of the experiment, day 2 and so on. Help them understand if their predictions work or don't work.



Playful Questions

- What color do you want the leaves to be?
- What will happen if we drop different colors into the water?
- Where do leaves grow?
- Where can we find leaves near our house?
- What do leaves need to grow?