

Leaf Symmetry



Trees

P

Preschoolers
2.5 - 4 years

As the leaves begin to change colors outside, it's the perfect time to look at them up close! This activity is a great way to combine math and art together as well as start the conversation around symmetry. Children will be looking for mirror images everywhere!

Learning Outcomes

Domain:

Cognitive

Indicator:

Identifying, creating, copying and extending a variety of patterns (e.g. sound, color, shape, number, etc.)

Skills:

Identifying Patterns



Materials

- Leaves
- Pencil
- Pencil crayons or crayons
- Markers
- Scissors
- Clear tape



Instructions

Step 1: Start by discussing the topic of symmetry and how objects can be symmetrical. Giving a few examples first of clearly symmetrical objects/drawings will be helpful for children to understand this concept.

Step 2: Next, go outside and start collecting leaves. The more variety in shapes and sizes the better!

Step 3: Once you have all the leaves, lay them out and let your child choose one to trace. Cut the leaf down the middle (top to bottom) and tape one side of the leaf down to the paper in the middle.

Step 4: Encourage your child to use the pencil first and trace the outline of the other half of the leaf on the paper.

Step 5: Once they're happy with the half of the leaf they traced, encourage them to trace where the lines on the inside part of the leaf would go and color it in.



Age Adjustments

For older preschoolers: Extend this activity by changing the symmetrical line to be diagonal or through the middle (left to right).

For younger toddlers: Holding a pencil and drawing may be quite tricky for them. Start by cutting several leaves in half and encouraging the child to find the matching pieces first.



Playful Questions

- How would our drawing look if we cut the leaf into 4 pieces?
- If we were to take away the leaf half, could you draw it still?
- What would our drawing look like if we keep rotating the leaf?
- Can you find 5 objects around you that are symmetrical?
- Can you find an object around you that is not symmetrical?