

Tree Bark and Leaf Rubbing



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Preschoolers
2.5 - 4 years

Experiment with texture by having children rub crayons on tree trunks and leaves. Each pattern will be unique to their spot on the tree - no two drawings are alike! Extend this activity with flowers, stems, branches and pretty much anything outside!

Learning Outcomes

Domain:

Physical

Indicator:

Beginning to hold writing utensils using the pincer grasp

Skills:

Fine Motor



Materials

- White/lightly colored paper
- Crayons with their labels removed
- Trees, tree bark or leaves



Instructions

Step 1: Start this activity by going outside and finding a tree with a lot of bumps and grooves on it or a flat, dry leaf.

Step 2: Have your child take their paper and hold it up against the tree or a leaf on a hard surface with one hand and start rubbing using the side of the crayon with their other hand. They may need assistance holding the paper depending on their skill level.

Step 3: Try to make the rubbings as large as possible on the paper and fill it up. Once they're happy, remove the paper from the tree or the leaf and take a look at your wonderful tree bark/leaf rubbing!



Age Adjustments

For older preschoolers: Extend this activity with different-shaped natural materials like flowers

For younger toddlers: Younger children may press too hard on the paper at first. Help them control the pressure by doing hand over hand.



Playful Questions

- Can you find the grooves of the tree bark in your rubbing?
- Can you identify the stem in your leaf rubbing?
- Can you continue to draw the outline of the tree/leaf/flower without rubbing the outline?
- How many lines are in the tree bark rubbing you created?