

Capture the colours of autumn

September and October are the perfect time of year to explore the colours of autumn with trees of vibrant shades present at every turn. Encourage children to comment and ask questions about aspects of their natural world with this activity.

Learning aims

- Notice detailed features of objects in the environment
- Comment and ask questions about aspects of the natural world
- Enjoy sensory experiences, exploring a range of natural materials
- Gain an interest in and use words to describe colour.



Resources

- Strips of card
- Double-sided sticky tape
- Carrier bags (to collect leaves and other natural objects)
- Paint matching colour cards (from DIY stores in autumn colours – green, brown, yellow, orange and red)
- Paints for children to experiment with and make their own autumn colours
- Camera.

Activity Outline

- Give each child a strip of card with double-sided sticky tape on one side
- Take the children outside for a nature walk and use the paint matching colour cards to find natural resources e.g. leaves of the same colour or shade
- The children should stick the natural resources on the piece of card to make their own natural paint card
- Encourage the children to look closely at the colours and describe them. Model language for them e.g. dark, light, pastel, vibrant
- Encourage the children to touch, smell, walk through, lie in and throw the leaves to get them interacting with the autumnal environment
- Ask the children open-ended questions about what they are experiencing e.g. what they can smell, if the colours of the trees compare to other seasons etc.
- Encourage the children to use the natural resources to make pictures e.g. with sticks, feathers, pebbles, leaves etc. Take photos of these to create an autumnal display at your setting.
- If you are unable to take the children for a walk, ask staff and parents to collect items and bring them into your setting. Place the items in your outside area and create your own 'autumn leaf walk'. Alternatively, scatter the items onto a large plastic mat or sheet inside.