Pumpkin seed art

Collect leftover seeds from your pumpkin carving creations for Halloween and create some seed-sational works of art.

Learning aims

- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design
- Communication and Language
- Maths
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical development.

Resources

For colouring the seeds

- Pumpkin seeds (washed and dried)
- A cup or bowl that you don't mind using with food colouring
- Water
- Vinegar
- Food colouring with colours of your choice.

For the activity

- Backing landscape paper (e.g. paper, canvas etc.)
- The newly coloured pumpkin seeds contained in jars or bowls
- PVA glue (optional).

Activity Outline

How to colour your pumpkin seeds

- In your cup (or bowl), mix half a cup of cold water with one and a half tablespoons of vinegar
- Add a few drops of food colouring until you have your desired colour
- Stir the mixture until your food colouring is all mixed in and then start adding pumpkin seeds
- Stir again until all of your pumpkin seeds are wet and leave them for about half an hour
    - If you wish the colour to be darker then leave them for longer
- Once you have the desired shade, scoop them out and lay them out on some kitchen roll to dry off
- Transfer the seeds onto some waxed paper and leave overnight to dry to ensure the colour does not stain skin and clothes.

Making the creations

- Provide children with a backing landscape (paper, canvas)
- Place jars or bowls containing the newly coloured seeds and optional PVA glue with brushes or spatulas on the table
- Enjoy using the seeds to create a piece of art!

Extending the activity

- Keep a camera nearby so children can capture their images
    - Print off the photographs and make a book of the children's various art creations.
- As an alternative to providing paper or canvas as a backdrop, why not take the seeds outdoors and use the natural environment as a backdrop to your art creations and use leaves, sticks, grass or flowers as natural borders.