

# PAINTING WITH LEAVES

P-W5A2

Children will build their Science skills as they explore outside and collect leaves. Then they will create unique artwork using leaves, paint, paper, and fabric. Draw connections between this activity and the STREAM Story Activity, *Leaves*, this week.



## STREAM FOCUS



### CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

### INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

#### Children will:

#### Teachers will:

#### THINK



Active Exploration  
Inquiry

- ◆ Actively Explore Leaves and Paint
- ◆ Use A Variety of Materials to Create Visual Art

- ◆ Narrate Curiosity and Exploration
- ◆ Prompt Children to Compare, Contrast, And Categorize

#### RELATE



Self-Confidence

- ◆ Express Confidence and Positive Feelings About Self
- ◆ Create Using Free Expression

- ◆ Narrate Self-Confidence
- ◆ Promote Child Autonomy

## GET READY

### MATERIALS

- ◆ Variety of leaves (collected during activity)
- ◆ Paint
- ◆ Paintbrushes
- ◆ Paper

### PREPARATION

- ◆ Make sure there are plenty of leaves outside where you will explore. If you don't have various shapes/colors/textures, bring in some from somewhere else (e.g., home, park) and spread them around the area. If you are in an area where you don't have leaves, any fallen objects from nature that children can explore will work fine.

### TEACHING TIPS



#### BIG PICTURE

#### SET THE STAGE

It's important that children's work is their "own" and we don't push them to make their art look a certain way. You can model or describe different ways to use the paint and leaves, but don't direct children to follow you. Instead, allow *them* to explore and choose what to do with the materials.

Children get excited when they can explore things that are both similar (e.g., both leaves) and different (e.g. different colors). Having a wide variety helps promote deeper exploration and Inquiry. Consider collecting leaves from somewhere else if you do not have a variety in your space or allow children to add other objects that aren't leaves to focus on comparison.

## EXPLORE

**USEFUL VOCABULARY:** discover, analyze, texture, stem

### 1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “Today, we will discover and analyze leaves and use them to create art by painting with them.”

### 2. COLLECT LEAVES AND OBSERVE

- ◆ Have children collect leaves outside.
- ◆ Examine the leaves to observe textures and patterns.
- ◆ Talk about parts of a leaf.

#### Narrate Curiosity and Exploration

“You are analyzing this leaf and seeing that it is still green while the other ones have changed colors.”

#### Prompt Children to Compare, Contrast, and Categorize

“Do these leaves look the same? Do they both have stems? Are they the same color/shape?”

#### Narrate Self-Confidence

“Look at this long, thin part. Oh, you said that’s a stem. You are smiling because you remembered that is called a stem. You feel proud.”

### 3. CREATE UNIQUE WORK

- ◆ Show children the paint and paintbrushes and let them freely paint/explore.
- ◆ You can model or describe different options, but don’t direct children to follow. Examples of fun ways to explore with these materials:
  - Make patterns by painting on to the leaf or lining up leaves.
  - Rip pieces and glue in a pattern.
  - Paint on their hands.
  - Paint the actual leaves.
  - Use the leaves as paintbrushes or “stamps” (by painting the leaf and pressing on the paper).
  - Crumble the leaves into the paint (which will then stick to the paper).
  - Make a print (place the leaf on the paper and cover the page with paint, then remove the leaf).

#### Promote Child Autonomy

Encourage children to create freely. Support and show interest in their ideas/creativity. Provide assistance and guidance only when necessary.

#### Prompt Children to Compare, Contrast, and Categorize

“On this leaf, you painted the smooth side, and on this leaf, you painted the raised side. What did you discover about painting on different textures?”

### 4. REVIEW

- ◆ “Today, you were scientists and artists as you analyzed leaves.”
- ◆ Prompt children to summarize or retell information. Say, “Tell us about what you discovered when you painted with or painted on the leaves.”

## ADAPT

**MORE SUPPORT:** For children who are hesitant to use paint, guide them to place a leaf under a piece of paper and rub the paper with crayon to reveal the leaf shape on the paper.

**MORE CHALLENGE:** Place leaves on paper, spray paint the paper with diluted watercolor paints, and remove leaves to reveal impressions.