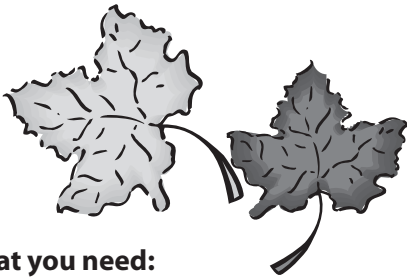




Leafy Prints

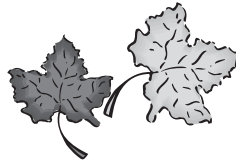


What you need:

- Drawing paper
- Crayons
- Clean sponges
- Tempera paint
- Small paint pans or paper plates for the paint

What to do:

- Have the children draw a tree trunk and branches on a sheet of drawing paper.
- Cut sponges into small pieces – these can be circles, triangles, squares, and small rectangles or they can be small leaf shapes.
- Dip the sponge pieces in the paint, then press them down gently on the drawing of the tree. You can use one color paint or several colors.
- Let the prints dry.
- Hang up the leafy prints for all to enjoy.



Paper Strip Art

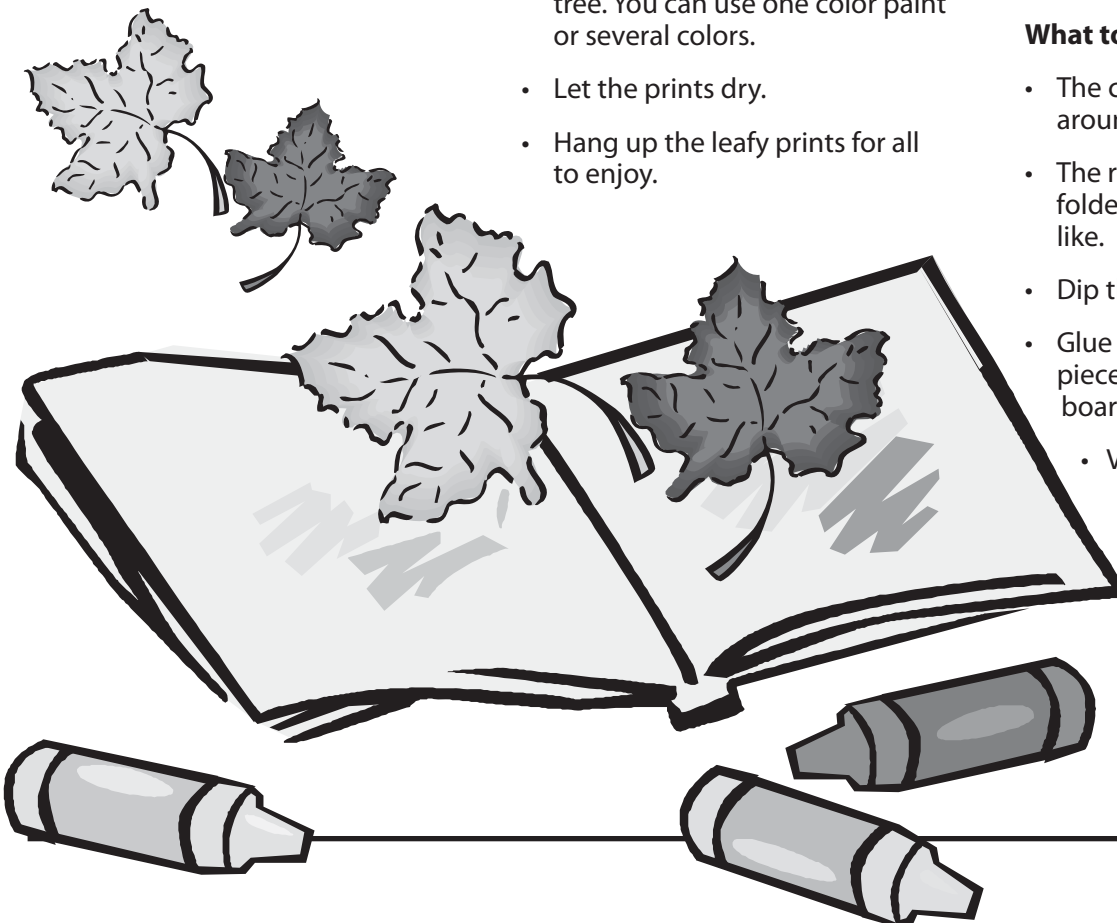
There are often strips of paper left over from art projects. Save these to use later for a collage-like project.

What you need:

- Paper strips of various lengths, widths, and colors
- White craft glue
- Pencils
- Poster board or light cardboard for background

What to do:

- The children can roll each strip around a pencil.
- The rolled strips can be twisted or folded any way the child would like.
- Dip the rolled strip in some glue.
- Glue the strips to the background piece of poster board or cardboard.
- Various designs can be created for a colorful collage of rolled strips.



In, Out, Under, and Over

Cardboard boxes can be fun for toddlers to explore and learn directional concepts.

What you need:

- Sturdy cardboard boxes of various sizes

What to do:

- Place the boxes on the floor in a play area.
- Encourage the toddlers to explore the boxes. They can go in and out, over and under, behind and in front of, etc. They can put things in and take them out.
- Give the children lots of time to play and explore.
- Describe what the children are doing so they hear the words for what they are doing. An example is, "You were in the box and then you climbed out of the box."

Classroom Mural

This can be an ongoing creative class project.

What you need:

- A long piece of drawing paper
- Tape
- Washable markers or crayons

What to do:

- Tape the drawing paper to a section of wall space in your room.
- The children can decide if they want a theme for their mural or have it be a creative work that evolves over time.
- Encourage the children to draw something on it whenever they have some free time. They can work alone or as partners with another child.
- This project is one all can enjoy. Be sure to take photos of it as it progresses.
- The children will be proud to show their families their work of art!

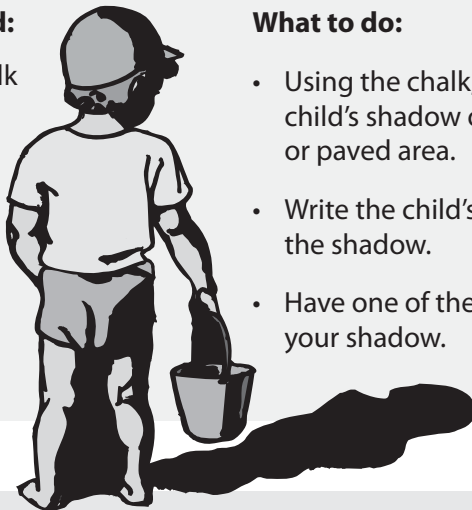


Chalk Shadows

Shadows are fun for children to explore. Here is an outdoor activity where children can have fun with their own shadows.

What you need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A sidewalk or other paved area



What to do:

- Using the chalk, trace each child's shadow on the sidewalk or paved area.
- Write the child's name inside the shadow.
- Have one of the children trace your shadow.
- Compare sizes of the shadows.
- Look at the shadows at different times of day. Talk about why shadows change size at different times.
- Have the children try to fit their shadow in the traced shadow.
- The children can try to chase their shadows.

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