



Imagination

Children learn so much and are able to increase their creative and thinking skills when using their imagination during play. Use your imagination to plan activities for them to do this. Here are some ideas to get you started:

LET'S PRETEND

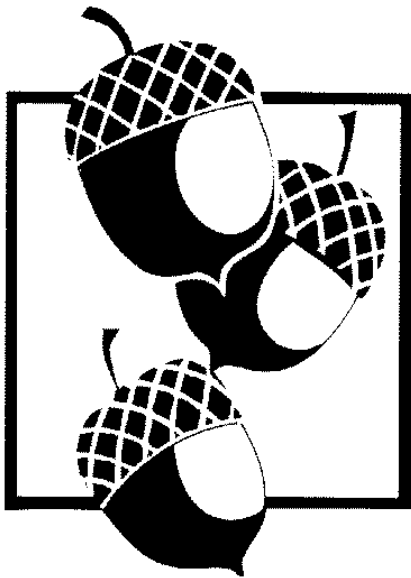
Read a favorite story to the children. Then say to them, "Let's pretend we are the characters in the book and see how we can tell the story." If there are more children than characters, do the story more than once, giving each child a turn. Have them switch characters and do the story again to let them tell it from a different character's perspective.

Repeat the activity in a few days and see what changes the children may make. Write down their version of the story. Save it for later in the year and read it to them again. See if they want to change anything. This can be an ongoing project throughout the year.

POEM — PICTURE PEOPLE

I like to peek inside a book,
Where all the
picture people look.
I like to peek at them and see
if they are peeking back at me.





SCAVENGING FOR ART MATERIALS

For a variation of a typical scavenger hunt, have the children collect things outdoors that can be used later for art projects. Take a walk with the children around your yard, walk to a nearby park, or just take a walk around the neighborhood. Give each child a bag to collect treasures. Be sure to go over guidelines ahead of time as to what they may gather for their collection. You should have rules about not picking flowers in someone's yard or breaking branches off bushes or trees! Some fun things to collect are pine cones, acorns, small twigs, small stones, bark that has fallen off a tree, leaves, dried weeds — the list goes on and on. Save the children's natural treasures for art projects.

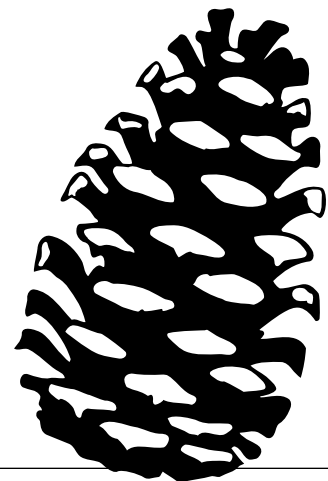
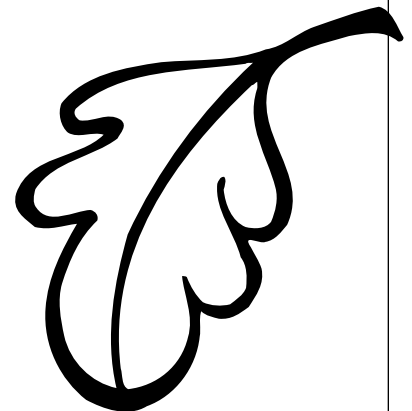
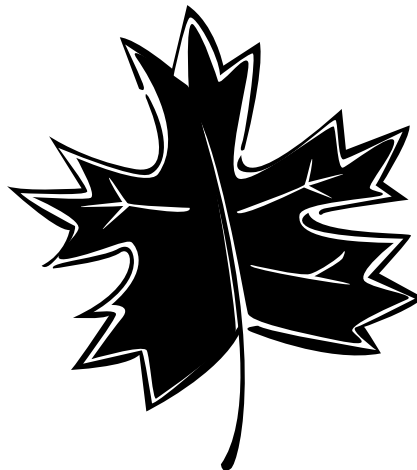
Imaginary Art

What you need:

- Large pieces of paper — you can use brown butcher paper, paper grocery bags cut open, or any other large pieces of paper
- Poster paints — several colors
- Paint brushes of various types and sizes, some small evergreen branches, sponges, or anything else you want the children to try
- White craft glue
- Natural treasures collected outdoors by the children
- Scraps of fabric, wrapping paper, ribbon, yarn, etc.
- Corrugated cardboard pieces
- Anything else you want to add

What to do:

Put out the art materials where the children can freely select what they want. Provide a large area where they can put their paper and let them create what they want using whatever material they select. When their creations are complete, put them somewhere to dry. After they have dried for a day or so, put them up for all to enjoy!



Pennsylvania Pathways

Professional Development
for Child Caregivers

PENNSYLVANIA



Cooperative Extension
College of Agricultural Sciences

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