



## Outdoor Art

Bring art activities outdoors in the nice weather. The children can be messier and more creative. Just be sure they have play clothes to wear for messy projects.

The children can create with play dough or clay and make some of the things they see when they are outside. Allow these to harden, for a permanent display of their art. Put them in a place in your center or home for all to enjoy!

Have the children collect some things such as twigs, small stones, bark, and pine cones that have fallen on the ground. Give them some glue and have them create a sculpture with what they have collected.

Wood scraps or craft sticks are fun to use to create sculptures.

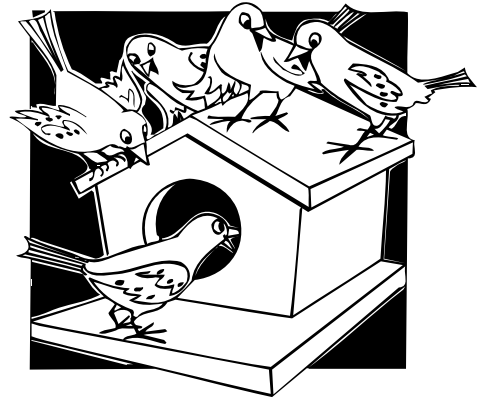
Give the children sidewalk chalk to draw with on a patio, sidewalk, or cement area.

Tack a large sheet of paper to a fence for the children to draw or paint a mural.

Put some tempera paint in some old pie tins or other flat containers. Have the children roll some small toy cars or trucks through the paint, then make designs by rolling the painted wheels on a piece of paper.

Children can use small twigs, leaves, or an ever-green branch as brushes to paint a picture.

Outdoors is the perfect place for finger-painting!



## Counting Critters

For some fun learning times outdoors, have the children look for birds, animals, and insects.

Keep track of what they see and how many.

Have a sheet for each child to record their sightings.

Assign some things. For example:

- “Tell me when you see three birds.”
- “How many worms are crawling near the puddle?”
- “Who sees a red bird?”

Make a chart of what the children see.

You will be teaching basic math skills, reviewing colors, comparison skills, and encouraging observation.

For older children you could organize a “Critter Scavenger Hunt” by giving the children a list of things to spot.

# A Cave Adventure

Use a large appliance box with the end cut off to make a “cave.” Have the children draw pictures of some cave dwelling animals such as bats, bears, spiders, etc. and put these on the inside “walls” of the cave. Give the children a small flashlight to use as they take turns for their adventure by crawling through the cave to see what they can see. Ask them to see how many bears they can find or how many spiders there are. If you do not have a box, drape a blanket over a table to make your “cave.”



## TUBE TIME

Save those cardboard tubes from toilet paper, paper towel, and wrapping paper rolls. They can be used for many fun projects to do with kids.

Paper tubes can be used as tunnels for small toy race cars. Downhill races can be held using the tubes cut in half lengthwise and taped together.

Make a kazoo for some musical fun by securing a square piece of wax paper to one end of a cardboard tube with a rubber band.

Sturdy tubes make great towers or pillars to add to block building sets. Glue colored streamers to one end of a paper tube. Turn on some music so the children can dance and wave their streamers in time to the beat.

### Dancing Shadows (Finger Play)

I see some little shadows

Dancing on the wall.  
(dance motions with fingers)

One, two, three there are,  
(hold up 1, 2, and 3 fingers)

Some are short and tall.  
(hold up one short, then one longer finger)

I see the shadows dancing,  
(dance motions with fingers)

Jumping up and down.  
(move fingers up and down)

Soon it will be time to go

So put your shadows down.  
(put hands in lap)

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Supported by funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Child Development.

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