

BLINK AT HOME

Nature Crafts

How can I create art from nature?

Skills to Develop

- + Fine motor
- + Creative thinking

Materials

- + Leaves, sticks, pinecones, etc
- + Construction paper
- + Crayons/colored pencils/markers
- + Contact paper
- + Glue
- + Googly eyes (optional)
- + Pipe cleaners (optional)

WHAT TO DO

Prepare Before the Activity

1. Find a place where it is appropriate to collect natural materials. This may be your yard or a local park.
2. Take your child outside and collect natural items from the ground such as leaves, pine cones, or rocks. Items must be dry or left to dry.

During the Learning Activity

1. Collect all materials in your workspace.
2. Discuss with children what they see and feel when they look at art.
3. **Leaf rubbing:** Arrange leaves and other items under paper. Rub using the side of crayon or chalk. Trace the veins lines using crayon tip.
4. **Nature portrait:** Lay out contact paper and have children arrange items on the sticky side to make a portrait. Alternatively, children can glue items to paper and add details with coloring utensils.
5. **Animal Invention:** Using a pine cone for body, make an imaginary animal. Sticks or pipe cleaners may be added for legs. Googly eyes are a fun addition. Children may use regular or craft glue to attach or have adult help using hot glue.

Extend the Fun

- + Paint rocks and leave them for others to find.
- + Search the Anchorage Museum's [Online Collection](#) for objects made from natural materials.