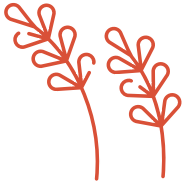




# LET'S CREATE

## Creating with Natural Material Collections



Natural materials can provide endless opportunities for creativity. As a starting point, they could be used for collage, threading, as a complement to playdough or to support storytelling.

### WHAT YOU NEED:

A collection of natural materials, including:

- flowers
- seedpods
- various leaves
- sticks
- stones
- shells.



If available, glue, string, cardboard, paints or textas.

### WHAT YOU COULD DO:

- Use your collection to create a collage. Items could be used with a cardboard background and glued into place. If glue is not available maybe a photograph could be taken to keep that lasting memory.
- Gumnuts or pinecones could become people with the addition of eyes and be used in storytelling.
- The natural items could be used in conjunction with playdough to create scenes. By adding sand or stones to the playdough the texture will be varied providing a different sensory experience.
- A leaf collection could be used to create mobiles or necklaces by threading the leaves onto string, wool or even a shoelace.

### WHAT LEARNING IS HAPPENING?

Natural materials can be used as a form of expression and enable children's ideas to come to life. As open-ended materials, it doesn't matter what you collect, as when children are given the time and space to use their creativity, their imaginations lead the way.

Younger children will initially use materials experimentally and as older children practice, and have more opportunities to work with materials, representation may become evident.



### WHERE TO NEXT?

What will your weekend hold in terms of being in the moment or being connected to nature?

Maybe you could explore another local space during a walk and forage for different natural materials.

