

Preschool
36-60 months
May



The Nature of Mississippi

DOMAIN(S)

Science; Physical Development; The Arts

MATERIALS

1. Paper
2. Various paint colors
3. Science tools (magnifying glasses, binoculars, etc.)
4. Bag for collecting items
5. Nature Paint Brush (see suggestions below)

Brush Options:

- Feathers
- Sticks and twigs
- Reeds
- Leaves
- Flowers
- Grasses
- Pine cones
- Pine Branches
- Ferns
- Long Grasses
- Seaweed

OBJECTIVES

1. Children will explore and investigate nature while on a nature walk.
2. Children will collect nature items for the classroom on a nature walk.
3. Children will paint with nature items collected.

HEADS UP!



Prepare science tools and bag for collecting items before going on the nature walk.



1. Keep in mind the outdoor allergies that your children may have.
2. Remember sunscreen and other protective clothing children may have for outdoor play.



EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS

S.LS.PK3.4
PD.GM.PK3.3
VA.CR.2a.1.PK
S.LS.PK4.4
PD.GM.PK4.3
VA.CR.2a.1.PK



ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Gather the children for a nature walk on the play ground and/or around the school
2. Tell them that are going to search for items that will make cool paint brushes
3. Let the children take the lead on the nature walk
4. Let them set the pace and also when to stop and observe
5. As the children explore and observe, have them to find items to collect for the nature bag
6. When the children have collected what they need, prepare for the next phase of the activity
7. Place nature items into the art center
8. Prepare paint and paper for the children to use in the art center
9. Encourage the children throughout the day to choose an item to paint with at the art easel or table

ADAPTATION FOR INCLUSION




This activity can be adapted to support participation for children with visual impairments. For example, when collecting materials in nature consider collecting dried leaves that can be crushed or sand to create tactile paintings that can be explored by touch when dry. Using contrasting colors can also make the activity more accessible for children with visual impairments (e.g., dark paper with light-colored paint).

WORDS TO PRACTICE

Explore
Beautiful
Texture
Nature

EXPANSIONS

1.  After the children have collected items needed for making the paint brushes, extend the activity by asking the children to listen for certain sounds, look for certain bugs and insects, and birds. Bring tools such as magnifying glasses, binoculars, and a camera to help enhance the experience.
2. Language: Have children to draw their experience of the nature walk. The children can talk about the different sights and sounds and what they enjoyed most about the walk.
3. Literacy: Read the The Listening Walk before or after the nature walk.
4. Art: Have the children glue extra items found on nature walk on a large piece of paper to create a classroom "mural of nature."
5. Fine Motor: Make nature bracelets with flowers.