

Natural Weaving

Early Childhood

Learning Intention

- For children to discover how to look at natural materials for aesthetic and functional purposes
- To explore and interact with the natural environment
- To teach weaving skills

Development & Links to Curriculum

- Fine motor skills
- Sustainability using found materials to create art
- Pattern & Repetition (Maths)/ Problem Solving

Using found materials from nature as inspiration for a weaving activity, Educators will learn how to use found and natural materials to create environmental art pieces. Children will learn about pattern and problem solving through weaving and using a handmade loom. This activity brings the outdoors in. As a class, create an installation of the woven twigs to hang from the centre ceiling, and/or create an installation outside in the centre yard.



Materials

- Forked tree branches
- Coloured wool
- crepe paper rolls
- Jute string
- Raffia
- Natural decorations: Feathers, seedpods, long strips of bark, leaves and cord sea-grass

To purchase go to
www.schoolartsupplies.com.au

Instructions

1. Explore your local environment and see what natural resources children can find ie twigs and branches
2. Tie one end of the length of Raffia to the top of one of the forks of the branch.
3. Stretch the Raffia across to the other fork and wrap it around once.
4. Stretch the Raffia back across to the first fork about 1.5cm below the first wrap (where the knot is) Wrap it around once.
5. Continue taking the Raffia back and forth between the forks. Wrapping it each time. Until you reach the bottom of the fork.
6. Now weave the other materials (coloured wool, string, long grasses and strips of bark) up and down through the Raffia. Go over one strand of Raffia, then under the next, then over and so on.
7. Between the strands of raffia tie on seashells, feathers, etc. that are too short to weave.
8. Extension: Another idea, try using a branch with more than one fork.