



STICK LEAF TOWER PATTERNS

Materials you need:

- A collection of different sized and shaped leaves.
- Sturdy sticks (less than 30cm tall) that will fit through a small hole.
- Hole/craft/stationary punches
- Soft dirt or sand outdoors or a tray/tub with clay if using indoors

Setup for play:

- If you are setting up outdoors add the sticks to the sand or dirt so they stay upright. Set up the tub or tray or use some yoghurt containers filled with playdough, clay or sand if indoors.
- Show the children how to use the hole punch to punch a hole in a leaf. Make sure to have a few with holes already in for younger children or those who have difficulty with this task.
- Encourage the children to choose their leaves, punch holes then skewer the leaves onto the sticks to create towers.
- Talk about the patterns that are forming based on what they are using – dark leaves, lighter ones, big, small etc

What are they learning with this activity?

As they build their leaf towers they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills, balance and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Classify objects and count the number of objects in each category.
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Express themselves creatively
- Persist even when they find the task difficult
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.
- Work independently on a project
- Expand vocabulary
- Uses scientific inquiry skills
- Uses observational skills to look closely and notice details
- Challenge their sense of touch and sensory processing
- Use their senses to explore and choose natural materials
- Recognise basic colour, shape and number concepts
- Recognise their individual achievements and successes – show pride in their work

Extending the play:

- Use the leaves to paint with as stencils. Lay flat on paper then brush or roll paint over the top – remove and you are left with the outline. Alternatively, you can paint the leaf first then press onto paper.

