



# LEAF PUNCH MOBILE

### Materials you need:

- Collect large leaves on a nature walk outside (or bring your own in).
- Craft paper punchers with different designs or just use simple hole punches.
- Roll of twine or string.
- Large stick or medium sized branches for hanging mobiles from.

### Setup for play:

- Add all leaves to the middle of a table along with the craft punchers.
- Encourage children to punch 1-3 holes in each leaf (depending on size of leaves you have).
- When they have their selection of leaves and hole punches finished they can thread the twine through the holes in each leaf to join them all together. If they have a few holes on each leaf they can weave in and out of those holes before moving on to the next leaf.
- Make sure to leave enough twine length at the end of threading the leaves so you can tie the mobiles to the stick to hang or take home.

### What are they learning with this activity?

As the children hole punch & thread they are learning to:

- Classify, sort by category and group items together by similarities, patterns and differences
- Challenge their sense of touch and sensory processing
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Persist even when they find the task difficult
- Work independently on a project
- Listen to and follow directions
- Use their senses to explore and choose natural materials
- Basic counting and number recognition concepts

### Extending the play:

- Use something different to thread the leaves with like a pipecleaner or some tubing – does it make it easier or harder using these tools instead of twine?
- Collect the paper shapes and patterns the hole punchers create and use them with clay and leaves to create different patterns and textures over the surface.

