



Forest School Activity Cards

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Forest School Activity

Make an Insect House

If you would like to attract insects then build them their very own home! If you manage to get your hands on:

- planks of wood
- old pallets
- crates piled up with bricks between the layers

Insects love to find a home underneath old pieces of wood. Then fill the gaps between the layers with things to make their visitors at home, such as:

- cardboard tubes
- shredded paper
- feathers and pebbles

Keep checking every day to see who has moved in.

Kim's Game

Forest School Activity

Kim's game is a memory game where you ask children to try to remember a certain number of objects and then ask them to close their eyes while you take something away and see if they can figure out what is missing. To play a forest school's Kim's Game, go out and gather a small collection of items from the local environment.

For example:

- feathers
- pine cones
- pebbles
- leaves.

Your child's challenge is to search the area for the same objects, and then come back to see how many they've managed to collect.

This game will help them develop their memory and observation skills.

Build a Cairn

Forest School Activity

Cairns are man-made towers of natural stones; the stones are placed on top of each other as a memorial or a landmark.

For example:

1. Get children to collect as many stones as they can find in lots of different sizes.
2. Then stack them in order, with the largest at the bottom and the smallest at the top.
3. Alternatively, you could ask them to use lots of smaller stones on the bottom with a bigger stone balanced on top (this is a bit harder but a great way of developing problem-solving skills).

Giant Forest Bubbles

What you will need:

- six cups of water
- one cup of washing-up liquid
- half a tablespoon of glycerine (the magic ingredient, available from chemists).
- long piece of string/ribbon
- weight for the end of the string/ribbon

Mix the water, washing up liquid and glycerine together in a large basin.

Tie the piece of string/ribbon of any length into a circle, dip it into the bubble mix and let air blow through the hole in the middle of the string/ribbon to make giant bubbles.

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Magic Wand

You will need:

- A stick (as straight as you can find)
- sticky tape or masking tape
- string
- glue
- wool

Attach a leaf by its stalk to the end of a straight stick with masking tape or sticky tape.

Wind string or wool around the stick to cover up the tape and on other sections if you wish.

Using glue or double-sided tape, stick leaves and petals to the stick and to the large leaf at the top.

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Mini Tipis

You will need:

- sticks
- string
- masking tape/sticky tape
- glue
- ribbon

Mini tipis are great for little play stick people to play in. If you stick 3-5 sticks into the ground and weave ribbons between the sticks they will turn out like colourful tipis.

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Stick People

You will need:

- one stick with a fork in it (or "Y" shape at the end)
- one straight stick
- leaves or scraps of material
- string
- masking tape
- pipe cleaners

Other possible items for decorating: felt tip pens, glitter, sequins

Method: The forked stick provides the legs and body, the straight stick the arms. Join the two together by either wrapping a pipe cleaner around them or using masking tape. Give the person hair and clothes using bits of material, leaves or other natural materials stuck on with masking tape. If desired, draw on a face using felt tip pens.

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Make Paint

Gather together various natural materials:

- grass
- leaves
- petals

Make the paint on a flat surface.

Using a stick or stone, crush the leaves / petals together, adding a little bit of water.

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Create a Collage

Start by having a colour scavenger hunt and then use parts of the natural materials collected during the colour hunt to make a collage.

- Cut a small piece of card then put a strip of double-sided tape along the middle. Peel back the protective strip to attach what has been collected or smear a thick line of glue along the card.
- Stick small pieces of items collected (the size of a fingernail) to the strip

Alternatively, you could lay what you have found out on the ground in a circular pattern like a mandala. Start in the middle and work out. Patterns can be created in a variety of ways picking objects of similar colour or size.

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Mud Mixing Activities

Make a Mud Face

- Get some mud and add water to it (don't add too much water as a nice, thick consistency is best) then mix the mud and water with a stick or spoon.
- Use your hands to squash the mud 'dough' together into a circular shape.
- Stick to a tree, wall or the ground.
- Use stones / sticks / leaves / petals for the eyes, mouth and hair etc.

Mix some Mud Paint

- This needs to be a thinner consistency but not too runny or it will look faint and run off the page.
- Use a paintbrush or feather to make marks on paper or on a stone floor.

Do the Mud Splat!

- Make a bucket of mud paint and use it to splat /sling at a wall, large piece of paper or an old sheet. Lots of fun!

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