

Art and Science

The children participated in a fun activity this past week. They had the opportunity to create individual leaf collages. I provided this activity in the art area of the classroom. I set up using instructional cards, construction paper, glue, and dried and fresh leaves. The children chose to crush or rip the leaves and then glue the pieces onto colored construction paper. They were able to choose from red, yellow, and brown paper. The children were given paintbrushes and cups filled with glue in order to provide a different way of using glue. The children had a new experience by brushing on glue onto the construction paper instead of squeezing glue bottles. Some children added additional whole leaves to their collages.



During this activity, I wanted the children to learn multiple concepts. The set up of the activity allowed children to follow instructions by looking at the step by step process and completing the activity with little assistance. The children did need support in reading and

understanding the instructional cards. The cards are used for encouraging the children's independence in activities and growth in self- help development. The children experimented with dried leaves and fresh leaves by crushing and ripping the leaves into pieces. In using their hands, the children were able to practice their fine motor skills. In addition to these concepts, the children learned the physical and visual differences of fresh leaves and dried leaves. While assisting the children, I asked questions about the difference they saw, felt, and heard between the fresh and dried leaves. I also asked questions that would encourage the children to think ahead and plan on what they would do next in the activity. I used the instructional cards as a tool to assist the children in thinking ahead.

Creative art allows children to learn through meaningful activities, in which subjects are integrated. I incorporated science into this art activity and through the children's responses to my questions about the differences among fresh and dried leaves, I can conclude that this activity was effective.



Children express their own ideas and investigate new materials in creative art activities. In art activities, teachers provide their students with opportunities to practice in all developmental domains. Children practice deeper thinking skills, language development, fine motor skills, and literacy skills. These activities provide children with real experiences that allow for a concrete understanding of a concept. Children learn best through real experiences and play. The art activities provided at the YCP allows for these educational experiences to take place.

I enjoyed working with the children on this activity. The children were enthusiastic and eager to crush and tear the leaves and produce wonderful collages for us all to enjoy.

