

Hanging Mobile of Nature Activity, For Children Aged 3 – 5 years

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| <p>Activity Type: Making a Hanging Mobile</p> | <p>Appropriate Age Group: 3 – 5 years</p> |
| <p>Activity Summary: The activity is to create a hanging mobile, using a range of natural objects.</p> | |
| <p>Materials needed: The materials for this activity are based on the amount of children. For instance one child will use 1 – 2 shells, leaves/feathers and twigs. 6 natural materials per child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - String / Thread (30cms long, 6 pieces per child) - Container (for the string / thread) - Scissors - Natural Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A variety of shells (2 per child) - A variety of leaves and feathers (2 per child) - Small, smooth twigs / sticks (2 per child) - Plain Coloured Cardboard (30cm x 30cm. 1 per child) - 1 Hole puncher - Sticky Tape - Glue - 1 large box (big enough for all the natural materials to fit in) - A black marker - Art smocks (1 per child) | <p>Time: As much as the child needs or when they say they are finished (Time varies as children work at different paces).</p> <p>Environment: Indoors, at a small/medium sized table with chairs (enough for each child)</p> <p>How many children can partake in this activity at a time? 3 – 5 children at a time</p> <p>Mess Factor: 6/10</p> |
| <p>What you need to prepare before the activity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect a variety of small shells, leaves, feathers and smooth sticks and twigs (enough for the amount of children. 6 materials each. The children can do this if you wish to create the experience for them). 2. Once the natural materials are collected, wash and clean them. 3. Once washed, use the hole puncher to create a hole on the top of each object (about 1cm away from the top). Then place them in the box. 4. Cut thread/string 30cms each. (6 per child) Place in the container once cut up. 5. Place newspaper on the table. 6. Place one piece of cardboard in front of each chair on the table. 7. Put the box of natural materials and container of thread in the middle of the table. (If a large table, spread the materials and thread in the middle of the table.) | |
| <p>Instructions for the activity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instruct the children to put on art smocks and sit in a chair at the table. 2. Explain what the children will be making. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A hanging mobile of natural materials, to place around the centres room. - Explain what a hanging mobile is. Ask children open-ended questions before you tell them what a hanging mobile is. 3. Demonstrate clearly to the children how to thread the string/thread, glue and sticky tape it through the natural object and then again to the cardboard. (You can assist them when tying the knot etc.) | |

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Step 1: Get a natural object.

Step 2: Get thread and glue or tie a knot to the natural material.

Step 3: Do this in for four natural materials.

Step 4: Then put the string through the cardboard to hold and hang the materials.

4. Instruct them to write their name on the cardboard then to begin and offer assistance when asked for help. (You can also make one with them at the same time.)
5. While the children are working, walk around them to make sure they understood the activities instructions and are working well. Assistance will need to be provided.
6. Once the children are finished, hang them around the room.

Linking the activity to the early learning years framework:

This activity can be linked to:

- **Outcome 1.2 – Children have a strong sense of identity: Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency.** - Children enjoy to experiment, explore and investigate with a range of materials when they are participating in art activities. Collaging encourages children to develop new skills and to enhance their current ones. Children also develop cognitive thinking skills as they become familiar with problem solving, which encourages them to gain confidence in themselves. This is created through where the child places specific items on the page, which has a meaning for them.
- **Outcome 4.2 – Children are confident and involved learners: Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating.**
- **Outcome 4.3 - Children are confident and involved learners: Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another.**
- **Outcome 4.4 - Children are confident and involved learners: Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials.** - The more safe and secure they feel, the greater their confidence is to become actively involved and engaged in the activities provided for them. This activity motivates and encourages children to create while using their imagination gives them the freedom to be inspired to create something from their perspective. Furthermore DEEWR (2009) believes that the supportive active learning environment encourages children's engagement in learning (p.33). This then affects the child's concentration levels when their interests are being portrayed.
- **Outcome 5.4 – Children are effective communicators: Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work.** - Encouraging children to create while using their imagination gives them the freedom to be inspired to create something from their perspective. While using their imagination, they create an image using different colours, lines, symbols and patterns. This is important as children discover a variety of uses for the same item/object as well as exploring the variety of uses for one item.

Open-ended questions you can ask during this activity:

- What objects are you going to place on your mobile? Why?
- What have you created/made?
- Why did you this particular object?
- What colours do you like that you used? Why?