

Art Center

Goals:

1. Use words to describe natural textures (language through art)
2. Express feelings about natural textures through art (social/emotional)
3. Smell different parts of a tree
4. Practice fine motor skills

Part 1 – Paint with tree-textured paint

- Add textures to your paint. Look for natural textures (dried, crumbled leaves, coffee grounds, sawdust, cinnamon) to add to the paint.
- Use the tempera paint you have in your classroom.
- For this workshop, I gathered the paints I had available at home.
- For the textures, I just started saving and gathering things around the house.

Part 2 – Write with cinnamon sticks

- Use cinnamon sticks to draw on sandpaper. (The sandpaper is the fine, black sandpaper found precut and stored in a plastic bag.)
- How does it smell? How does it feel?
- Think about motivating reluctant writers through this center.

Part 3 – Paint with evergreen brushes

- Dip small branches or needles tied in a bundle and taped into paint.
- Experiment using one pine needle, then a bunch.
- You can also press sprigs onto a paint pad (made with a folded paper towel in a plate and thinned paint on the towel) and make prints on paper.

Have you ever noticed that children who exhibit challenging behaviors often have difficulty performing fine motor tasks?

Materials:

Paint, paint brushes, “textures” (sawdust, dried leaves, coffee grounds, tea, etc.) paper plates for paint trays, napkins or paper towels, art paper, cinnamon sticks, sandpaper pieces, pine needles, tape, string