

Working with a theme for a day, week or term can really help you create unique experiences for your programme to enjoy. In this issue we are going to look at nature and what you can do with mostly natural resources.

Nearer to Nature



Rock Games

Children love board games. Heres an activity where you can take something simple and use it for hours of unplugged fun.

Stones can be cheaply found from landscaping and value stores. Combine the stones with some paint and creativity and you have a game. Instructions for games below. Naughts and crosses - oscn.org.nz/uploads/86025/files/NaughtsCrosses.pdf Coloured Dominos - oscn.org.nz/uploads/86025/files/ColourDominos.pdf

Then make some simple little bags to keep and carry your games in. Instructions at oscn.org.nz/uploads/86025/files/EasyBags.pdf

Find the resources

Stones are usually cheapest in bulk from landscaping/hardware stores like [Mitre 10](#) and [Bunnings](#) with a 15L bag costing about \$10 (depending on size and colourings).



Painted Sticks

Simple but effective. Get some sticks and paint them with colours, patterns and designs.

You can make several and construct a mobile out of them. Full instructions found at oscn.org.nz/uploads/86025/files/PaintedSticks.pdf

Designer Stones

If you have a few minutes to spare and want to do a craft, this is an easy one.

Permanent markers and stones is all you will need. Check out the instructions here oscn.org.nz/uploads/86025/files/DesignerStones.pdf



Bark Animals

Everyone loves a pet, and these ones will require no cleaning up after.

This craft may take a bit more time collecting resources, but the outcome will be worth it. If you have many trees/plants around where you are you could let the children to go scavenging themselves.

The key is to use dead/dried nature pieces as green/living parts will deteriorate over time. Use some bark that has fallen from a tree (or purchase some from a landscaping store) as a base for the body of the animal then use small seeds etc to create a face. Full detailed instructions found at oscn.org.nz/uploads/86025/files/BarkAnimals.pdf



Feathers



Pattern Feathers Cutting

Feathers are often one of the resources we use to make something but they can also be works of art on their own.

For the cut feathers simply get your scissors and cut to shape (keep in mind the angle of the fibers)



Painting/Drawing

You can also get out some acrylic paint and some brushes and paint on patterns. Simple, easy and minimal resources needed. Instructions for pattern feathers found at www.oscn.org.nz/uploads/86025/files/PatternedFeathers.pdf



Feathered Swan

What better craft to do with feathers than one that links back to the original source.

Cut a paper plate to size, paint the beak and then layer up the feathers. Kids will love making these and they can also be creative with their choice of colouring in the feathers.

This swan could also be made 3D by making two (one mirrored of the other) then stick the back of the plates together. The natural curve in the plates will help the body stick out and look 3D.

Full detailed instructions found at oscn.org.nz/uploads/86025/files/FeatheredSwan.pdf



Fuzzy Buddies

Imaginary friend, I think not... why not make some fuzzy friends.

Two popsicle sticks for legs, two googly eyes and a fuzzy feather to create some hair.

You could even combine this with the cut pattern feathers to create some funky hairdo's. Detailed instructions found at oscn.org.nz/uploads/86025/files/FuzzyBuddies.pdf



Fresh out of feathers

Have no feathers but want to make one of these crafts? Why not make your own out of card. Check out the instructions at oscn.org.nz/uploads/86025/files/PaperFeathers.pdf