OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES THIS SPRING

Spend time outdoors with your family this spring as you enjoy these new activity ideas great for all ages!

NATURE PRINTS
In this activity, your kiddo will create their very own mono print - which is a form of printmaking that has lines or images that can only be created once, unlike most printmaking that allows for duplicates.

Materials Needed:
- Brayers ($10 on Amazon for two)
- Water-based block printing ink ($19 on Amazon for six different colors)
- Paper
- Acrylic Plexiglass sheet ($10 on Amazon)
- Paintbrushes for applying ink - as an alternative to brayers, better for little ones!
- Objects you’ve found exploring nature (sticks, leaves, pine cones, rocks, etc.)

Directions:
Allow your kiddo to explore an open grassy area (can even be your front and/or back yard!) and to pick up anything they find interesting - leaves, pine cones, rocks, wild flowers, etc. Head back home and using the materials your kiddo has discovered, apply the ink to the natural materials they’ve found, and allow them to stamp the impressions onto the paper, creating a work of art!

Money Saver: use regular paint already around your house to apply a light coat of paint to the natural materials and then allow your kiddo to press onto the paper!

PAINTING BY NATURE
Exactly as it sounds. We’re going to create new tools to paint with using what we’ve found outdoors!

Materials Needed:
- Objects you’ve found exploring nature (sticks, leaves, pine cones, rocks, etc.)
- Yarn
- Masking tape
- Paint
- Twine
- Paper
- Sponges

Directions:
Allow your kiddo to explore an open grassy area (can even be your front and/or back yard!) and to pick up anything they find interesting - leaves, pine cones, rocks, wild flowers, etc. Once you’ve returned home, using tape, string or other materials, work together with your kiddo to fashion your found materials into painting tools!
NATURE BRACELETS

Jewelry has never been so au naturel!

Materials Needed:
- Tan, brown or green felt strips (for bracelet ‘base’)
- Hole Puncher
- Ribbon
- Glue Sticks
- Markers
- Scissors
- Objects you’ve found exploring nature (sticks, leaves, pine cones, rocks, etc.)

Directions:
Allow your kiddo to explore an open grassy area (can even be your front and/or back yard!) and to pick up anything they find interesting - leaves, pine cones, rocks, wild flowers, etc. Measure the size of your kiddo’s bracelet by wrapping the felt spring around their wrist, marking where it should be cut. Using the hole puncher, punch a hole at both ends of the felt strip, stringing a ribbon through the holes that will act the bracelet tie. Then, allow your kiddo to glue the various natural objects they found while exploring outside onto their bracelet, creating a wearable work of art!

Be sure to tag us in your creations at home!
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We hope our at-home play ideas have been helpful to you! If you are able, please support Port Discovery Children’s Museum by renewing your membership, purchasing a gift membership for someone, or making a contribution of financial support.