



# Learning and playing with LEAVES



## Colourful leaves

Use a variety of paint swabs to colour match to leaves. Find different coloured leaves in all the colours; green, brown, red or yellow and turn them into a rainbow. Are they all the same green? Yellow? Brown? Red? How many different greens? Browns? Reds? Yellows do you have?

What else can you find in nature to match the colours to?

## Create leaf creatures

Use leaves to create pictures in nature. Find different types of leaves to create dinosaurs (such as this stegosaurus), people and buildings. Collage the leaves onto paper to keep your art or take a photo. Find different coloured leaves to enhance the picture.

What other pictures can you make? Could you add any other natural materials to your picture?



## Investigate a leaf

Take time to look closely at the leaves on trees around you. Identify leaves in the environment using pre-made matching cards. Research whether they are native plants or weeds, try using the iNaturalist app.

What animals do you think may eat them or use them as a habitat? Can you see any creatures on the leaves? How many different leaves can you identify? What colours are they? Which leaf is bigger?

## Threading leaves

Use a long piece of grass or even a long thin stick and thread different leaves onto it. Make a hole in the leaves using a stick. Notice what happens if the hole is too close to the edge of the leaf.

Use a variety of colours and turn the threaded grass into a necklace or bracelet.

What else can you make with grass and leaves? What colours are there? What tree/plant do you think they are from?



Leaf play provides early science exploration and will enhance children's cognitive development through colour and shape concepts whilst giving them tools to identify flora and fauna. Through everyday engagement with nature, children develop respect and care for our natural environment.

Have you read the "Leaf Litter" book by Australian author Rachel Tonkin?

This book explores the hidden world amongst the leaves that lie at the base of the tree.



This wonderful resource has been developed by Nature Play QLD  
[www.natureplayqld.org.au](http://www.natureplayqld.org.au)