

TOPIC	ACTIVITY NAME
Discovering Together	Exploring Natural Objects



## OBJECTIVE

The infants will use their senses to explore natural objects. INF/CD-S/A/1/6M.a

## MATERIALS &amp; SET UP

- Soft blanket or play mat
- Sturdy piece of cardboard
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Natural objects such as: piece of tree bark, 2-3 rocks, pine cone, leaves, flower, etc.
- Glue the objects on the piece of cardboard.



## ROUTINES &amp; TEACHER TALK

1. Choose a time when the infant is alert and their needs have been met.
2. Make eye contact and smile. "How would you like to get down on the floor and explore some objects I found outside?" Pause to allow the infant to turn head, make eye contact, smile or provide other cues.
3. Place the baby on the blanket near the natural objects board.
4. Point to each object, verbally label and describe it. "This is a green leaf. It came from the tree by the swings. Look at this rock. It's gray with a black line through it. It feels smooth."
5. Encourage the baby to investigate the objects on the board as you talk about them.
6. If the baby reaches for an object, describe how it feels.
7. "I see you touching the pine cone. How does that feel to you?" Acknowledge any verbal responses. "Ooh, you pulled your hand back. I agree, the pine cone is prickly."
8. Continue the investigation for as long as the baby appears to be engaged.
9. Note: This is a closely supervised activity. Do not leave the baby alone with the objects.
10. Take older infants on a nature walk and explore natural objects together. Discuss the sights, sounds, smells, and sensations you encounter.

LEARNING SUPPORT

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- To support younger infants with this activity, tune in to what the child is looking at and watch for changes in their facial expressions and body language.
- To support older infants with this activity, take turns talking and allow the child to gesture, look, smile or babble after the adult initiates the conversation.
- If your outdoor area lacks a variety of plants or animals, bring in natural materials such as flowering plants, a patch of sod, or tree bark purchased at the store. These store bought natural materials can be used both inside and outside.
- Older infants may engage with pictures of natural objects they have explored. Take pictures or print pictures of each child's preferred objects and make an accessible classroom display. Photos can be attached to paper then laminated and taped to the rug so infants can view them easily.
- Verbally label and describe each picture as you point to it.

Engaging in shared experiences with other babies promotes the infant's development of parallel play with peers while attending to the sights, sounds, and people around them.

@Home Connections

Teacher Reflections