



# Nature Play: Leaf and Flower Prints

## Nature Prints from Leaves or Flowers

Leaf and flower prints are a great way to explore flowers, color and pigments, and design, and get some extra energy out through pounding the plants! The prints can be an exploration of process, an art project all by itself, or transformed into flags, drawings, or other projects.

**Guiding Questions:** What kind of plants do you want to use? Plants that are all the same color? All flowers, or all leaves? All large or all small?

**NOTE for Grownups:** it is fun to do these activities with your children but remember when they (not you) lead the activity they learn problem-solving skills and gain confidence.

**Materials:** An assortment of leaves and petals, the more colorful, and fresher the better (avoid plants that have dried out or have a hard, shiny coating). Cloth made from natural fibers (unbleached calico), untextured paper towel, and/or watercolor paper. Newspaper. A rubber mallet, hammer, or a large smooth pebble. A hard, smooth surface to work on.

### What to do:

- Choose the plants you want to use; pink, red, purple, and blue pigments work well. Look for a variety of colors then you'll have a nice variety of hues on your paper.
- Place a piece of paper on the board then arrange your flowers and leaves on top. Once you are happy with your design gently place the cloth on top, and tape it in place.
- Carefully, slowly, and firmly hammer the surface. The plants will begin to release their stain. The aim is to create a clear print of the plants, not to completely obliterate them. You want small, direct hits, no wielding the tool above your head. Try to keep the paper/fabric steady, but more importantly, keep fingers clear of the hammer.
- When you finish, peel off any remains of the plants from the paper and fabric.
- Steam the cloths with an iron to help the dyes set. To ensure you do not damage your iron, place several layers of cotton in between your cloth and iron set on the hot setting.
- When you are finished, you can hang up your leaf prints as art, turn them into a card to give to someone, or take your prints and turn them into other creatures. What else can you do with your leaf print? Be creative!

### Resources:

[smallgreenthings.com.au/hapazome-paintingwithflowers/](http://smallgreenthings.com.au/hapazome-paintingwithflowers/)  
[bamboofamilymag.com/parenting/capturing-the-season-making-autumn-leaf-playsilks.html](http://bamboofamilymag.com/parenting/capturing-the-season-making-autumn-leaf-playsilks.html)  
[littleheartbiglove.co.uk/30dayswild-leaf-printing-inspired-doodles/](http://littleheartbiglove.co.uk/30dayswild-leaf-printing-inspired-doodles/)  
[wingswormsandwonder.com/wonder-wednesday-36-chlorophyll-collage-prints/](http://wingswormsandwonder.com/wonder-wednesday-36-chlorophyll-collage-prints/)  
[eekwi.org/cool/leafprint5.htm](http://eekwi.org/cool/leafprint5.htm)  
[kcedventures.com/blog/making-leaf-prints-the-quickest-and-most-beautiful-fall-project-ever](http://kcedventures.com/blog/making-leaf-prints-the-quickest-and-most-beautiful-fall-project-ever)



# Nature Play: Leaf and Flower Prints

## Leaf and Flower Print Images from the web

