



Nature Play: Weaving Nature

Weaving in the Plant World

Nature provides endless opportunities for play, discovery, and creativity. One way to explore the natural world creatively is through weaving. Weaving encourages children to slow down and study the texture, color, flexibility and other characteristics of the grasses, leaves, flowers, sticks, etc. that they collect for their project. Additionally, weaving encourages development of fine motor skills, strengthen pincer grip muscles, visual tracking, hand/eye coordination, and special awareness (weaving over and under).

Guiding Questions: If you look very closely, what texture do you see in your clothes? Could we make something similar using natural materials? What do we need to weave things together?

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: Natural materials collected from your yard or a walk through your neighborhood (longer materials work better for weaving) -- Remember to protect your surroundings and only collect things that have fallen to the ground or take only a few things so that you don't hurt the plant; materials for a frame or loom (four sticks, a forked stick, empty picture frame, a stick wreath, piece of cardboard, etc.), string/twine/yarn that plants will be woven between.

What to do:

1. Make a frame from the sticks by tying the sticks together at the corners, find a stick with a fork at one end, or cut grooves in a piece of cardboard.
2. Wind string around the frame so that they are all parallel, looping the string around the stick at least once before heading back to the other side. If you are new to weaving, make gaps between the strings wider; for a challenge, bring them closer together.
3. Begin weaving natural materials through your frame. Go under one thread and then over the next, repeating this over/under pattern until you reach the end. This helps to hold the item in place and creates more interest.
4. Repeat with more of the things you have collected.
5. When you finish, share your creation with friends and family!

Resources:

craftiments.com/2013/06/NatureWeavingCraftandSolarOvenSmoers.html
hannahsartclub.wordpress.com/2012/10/04/weaving-from-nature-autumn-sculpture-inspired-by-andy-goldsworthy-october-2012/
thechaosandtheclutter.com/archives/nature-weaving
housingaforest.com/nature-weaving-looms/
diythought.com/nature-weaving-for-children/
trueaimeducation.com/beginner-sewing-activity-nature-weaving/

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Weaving Nature Images from the Web

