



Maths  
Age 2-5

# Leaf snap

- Mathematical reasoning
- Vocabulary

## Overview

- By comparing leaves, children can start to develop reasoning skills and create their own criteria for matching them together.

## Equipment

- A range of different leaves

## Activity

1. Allow time to explore outdoors and collect a variety of leaves. Encourage children to collect leaves that have fallen rather than picking softer leaves from ground plants.
2. Put children into pairs sitting opposite each other with their piles of leaves.
3. Explain that they must take it in turns to place one of their leaves into a middle pile, looking out for similarities with the leaf before it.
4. If they think they spot a feature which shared between the two leaves (e.g. shape, leaf type, colour, size, etc.), then they can shout 'snap!' and put their hand on top of the middle pile.
5. They must then explain their reasoning before they can take the middle pile of leaves.
6. Explain to the children that there are no right or wrong answers. They just need to give a clear reason for matching the leaves together.
7. Continue playing until a player runs out of leaves.

## Check for understanding

1. Talk about the different ways the children matched the leaves together and what they noticed about them.
2. Discuss how there are no right or wrong answers in this game, as long as children can give a reason for their decision.
3. Extend the activity by playing the game with other natural materials.

## Learning outcomes

Play types	Communication play - explaining their reasoning for matching leaves
	Exploratory - discovering natural items and exploring them in detail
Motor skills	Fine motor skills by handling leaves and groups of items
Literacy and mathematics	Use of mathematical language to describe the size and shape of leaves
	Mathematical reasoning and explaining thought processes
Self-directed learning	Improved vocabulary when describing leaves closely
	Leave a range of leaves out for the children to order by their own criteria or group together in different ways



Learning  
through  
Landscapes

If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: [itl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training](https://www.itl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training)