Hapa Zome

Overview

Hapa Zome is a Japanese term meaning ‘leaf dye’. This art activity provides an opportunity to celebrate seasonal nature and introduce basic tool use.



Activities

Collect a range of seasonal leaves, berries and flowers.
Place the natural materials on one side of a square of fabric and fold the other half over the top.
On a hard surface, use a rubber mallet to hammer all over the cloth until the natural dye can be seen seeping through.
Open the folded cloth and remove the plant matter to see the natural imprint that has been created.
Use a peg to hang the cloth up to dry.

Equipment

- Rubber mallets (you could use a rolling pin or a rock)
- Cotton fabric, for example calico, a white sheet or muslin
- A range of leaves, berries and flowers.

Safety Tips

Ensure clear space for use.
Use two hands on the mallet, or one on the tool and one behind the back. Make repeated, shallow taps using wrist, rather than swinging the mallet.

Learning Outcomes

To learn how to use a tool safely, build confidence and a sense of achievement and pride in the outcome. To support the development of fine and gross motor skills. To explore natural materials through art.

Progression in Learning

- Explore simple symmetrical patterns.
- Explore the different properties of leaves. Waxy, smooth leaves do not release their dye and neither do brown leaves in the autumn. Why is this?