Tree Faces

Overview

This activity invites children to make trees come alive by giving them faces made from mud or clay. It's a fun, creative way to explore feelings, tell stories, and build new emotional vocabulary while connecting with nature.



Activities

Children mix mud and water to make a soft, clay-like texture or use ready-made clay. They press it gently onto tree trunks and add natural treasures like sticks, leaves, stones and bark to create faces. Adults join in; chatting about expressions and emotions, helping children name feelings and imagine what their tree might be thinking, feeling or saying.

Equipment

- Mud and water or clay
- Small bowls or containers
- Natural loose parts (sticks, leaves, stones, bark)
- Trees or large logs.

Key Questions

This tree looks worried, what might help it feel better?
How do we know this tree is excited?
Have you ever felt like this tree?

Learning Outcomes

To explore and express a range of feelings in a playful, creative way.
To develop new words to describe emotions.
To practise noticing and talking about facial expressions.*
To build confidence sharing ideas and feelings with others.
To develop care and respect for natural materials and the environment.

* happy * sad * angry * excited * calm * tired * worried * scared * frustrated * shy
proud * lonely * surprised * confused * curious * nervous * kind * peaceful