

Leaf Match

Primary Objectives

13. Uses classification skills

Why It's Important

Inviting children to look closely at familiar objects gives them a chance to notice and talk about new details. This activity will encourage your child to observe different shapes, sizes, and colors while she learns to match similar objects.

Materials

Matching sets of three or more different kinds of leaves

What You Do

1. Spread out the leaf collection on the table and invite your child to explore the leaves. Encourage his to look, touch, feel, and smell the different leaf types.
2. Lead a discussion that prompts your child to talk about the various attributes she notices such as size, shape, and color. Show your child how to put each leaf with the one that matches. *This is an oak leaf. Can you put it on top of the other oak leaf?*
3. Ask his to point out the matching attributes of the leaves as she pairs them together.
4. Extend the activity, if appropriate, by asking your child to sort the leaves by color, size, or shape. *How are you sorting the leaves? You put the brown ones in a pile and the green ones in a pile.*
5. Encourage your child to look for leaves outside at a later time and talk about their characteristics.