

Flower Fairies (0-2 years)

Note: This activity is best for 12-24 months, due to potentially small materials being used.

Links to the Early Years Learning Framework:

- **Outcome One: Children have a strong sense of identity**
 - Show interest in other children & being part of a group
 - Engage in & contribute to shared play experiences
- **Outcome Two: Children are connected with & contribute to their world**
 - Broaden their understanding of the world in which they live
 - Demonstrate an increasing knowledge of & respect for natural & constructed environments
 - Explore relationships with other living & non-living things & observe, notice & respond to change
- **Outcome Three: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing**
 - Acknowledge & accept affirmation
 - Manipulate equipment & manage tools with increasing competence & skill

Duration: 15-20 minutes collecting materials outside (approx.), 10-15 minutes creating the fairies (approx.), times may vary depending on how interesting the children find the activity

Size of Group: This activity works best with groups of four children

Materials Needed:

- Lightweight card stock or cardboard
- Lead pencils
- White craft glue, glue pot & brush
- Scissors (for adult use only)
- A collection of leaves & petals, or other natural materials

Background to Learning: From this activity children can learn about how the seasons affect plants/nature (eg. Flowers in spring), sustainability & art (collage). Additionally numeracy & literacy could be incorporated by asking children, 'what plant is that?', or counting each of their scavenged materials with them.

Content of Activity: Take the children outside & look for natural materials to use for the activity, flowers, leaves & gum nuts are perfect but other bits found (that you think are suitable can be used too). Allow the children to search for these items themselves, offer praise when children find suitable items. Help the children to understand that things should only be collected if they are already on the ground, that plants need to be respected & not to pick flowers or leaves off plants. If any insects are found, take a little time to talk to the children about the insect & allow them to observe it (however briefly).

Instructions: Sit with the a small group of children at a table & allow the children to show what natural materials they have collected from outside, if one children has

something unusual be sure to talk about it with the others. Then encourage the children to draw on the card stock with a pencil, their fairy design (any other creatures can be drawn if the child wants to draw something else). When they have drawn their fairy/creature ask them about the different characteristics (How many legs does your creatures have? Does it have wings? What does it eat?). Then using craft glue, secure the petals or leaves to accentuate their creatures, if the child wants to cut or trim any materials ask them in detail what they want so you can cut it with the scissors. When finished you can ask the children further questions about their piece, such as how many petals on your picture? Where did you find this? Allow the fairies/creatures to dry, when dry they can be decorated in the room (at a level where the child can see it) or turned into a card or shared with parents.