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What in the World?: Leaf Collection

What do you need?: A bag to collect leaves, coffee filters, heavy book, journal or scrapbook, marker, double-sided tape or glue. A tree identification book or internet site such as www.worldbook.com.

What you do: Go on a walk and collect many different types of leaves. Press each leaf between 2 coffee filters and place in a heavy book (a phone book works well). You may want to add more books on top. Let them dry for a few days. When through, place in your leaf journal or scrapbook and label with the type of tree it came from. Research the variety by using the book or internet.

Tips: Younger preschoolers may just sort leaves into categories such as round or pointed, brown or red, etc.

Value: Science Rocks — Practice observation, classification, and documentation while learning about the characteristics of different types of trees.
Language Works — Learning new words, labeling, and reading for research.

Variations:

- 1.) Repeat this activity in the fall and spring to see and document the changes in the leaves through the seasons.
- 2.) Make placemats with your collection by arranging leaves on a 18" x 24" sheet of construction paper. Glue lightly and cover entire mat with clear contact paper.
- 3.) Make toilet paper tube "binoculars" by taping 2 tubes together. This might help them keep focused on looking for leaves.
- 4.) Make leaf prints by dipping leaves in paint and press onto paper.

We did it!

Name

Signature/Stamp