

Infant Toddler Art:

Leaf Prints



Learning Value:

Infants and toddlers need opportunities to explore the world through their senses. In this simple activity, they can taste, touch, smell, and feel plants or press them to make a piece of art.

Materials Needed:

- ▶ Nontoxic herbs, plants, flowers, and leaves, such as basil, dill, sage, kale, lettuce, carrots (with tops), untreated dandelions, pansies, or nasturtiums
- ▶ Nontoxic, washable ink pads or tempera paint
- ▶ Cardstock or heavy paper
- ▶ Tray or cookie sheet

Participants:

This activity is intended for adult/child interaction.

Directions:

- ▶ **Step 1:** Sit with your child on the floor. Place the tray in front of your child and attractively arrange one or two of the plants on the tray. Tell your child the name of each plant, describe them, and encourage your child to smell, touch, and taste them.
- ▶ **Step 2:** As your child's interest in one plant wanes, offer a new one for exploration.
- ▶ **Step 3:** Show your older toddler how to press a leaf into the inkpad and then press it on to the paper to make a print. Display the prints in your home.