

# Preschool Art: Sewing Leaves

## Learning Value:

This introductory sewing experience builds children's focus and attention to detail. Participating in handcrafts is a satisfying way for young children to strengthen motor skills and explore a variety of materials.

## Materials Needed:

- ▶ Leaves of various colors and sizes (soft leaves work best)
- ▶ Paper punch
- ▶ Yarn or string
- ▶ Masking tape
- ▶ Scissors

## Participants:

This activity is intended for adult/child interaction and independent play.

## Directions:

- ▶ **Step 1:** With your child, gather a few leaves from your yard or a nearby park. Look for a variety of colors, shapes, and sizes.
- ▶ **Step 2:** Help your child use the paper punch to make holes around the outside edges of the leaves.
- ▶ **Step 3:** Tear a small piece of masking tape (1 inch or less). Wrap it tightly around one end of the yarn or string. Cut the tape on an angle to make a "needle." You can also use plastic or blunt-ended needles.
- ▶ **Step 4:** Show your child how to sew the edge of the leaf by pushing the yarn through each hole in an up and down motion.
- ▶ **Step 5:** Older children might enjoy sewing the leaves together to make a curtain, skirt, or banner. If your child enjoys this, try sewing other natural materials or offer fabric.