

Kid's corner

Fun with leaves

Autumn and winter are such fun times, especially with all of the changes. The leaves on some trees start to change colour and some trees start to lose their leaves. These trees are called deciduous trees. While most Australian trees keep their leaves all year round being evergreen, there are a few species of Australian trees that lose their leaves in summer when water is scarce.

Collecting leaves of different shapes, colours, sizes and textures can be fascinating. For small children it's a great exercise to use different words, describing the shapes. Are they big or small? What colours are in the leaves? Are they smooth or rough? What can you smell?

It's a great time to introduce children to arts language, to warm colours or cool colours. Talk about the veins in the leaves and what they might do? Why do deciduous trees and bushes lose their leaves? Try these activities with the children in your world....

What you will need

- A selection of leaves
- Texta colours
- Paper
- Water colour paint
- Paint brushes
- Water pot
- Laminating pockets and laminator
- Buttons
- Glue
- Waxed paper
- Scissors

Method

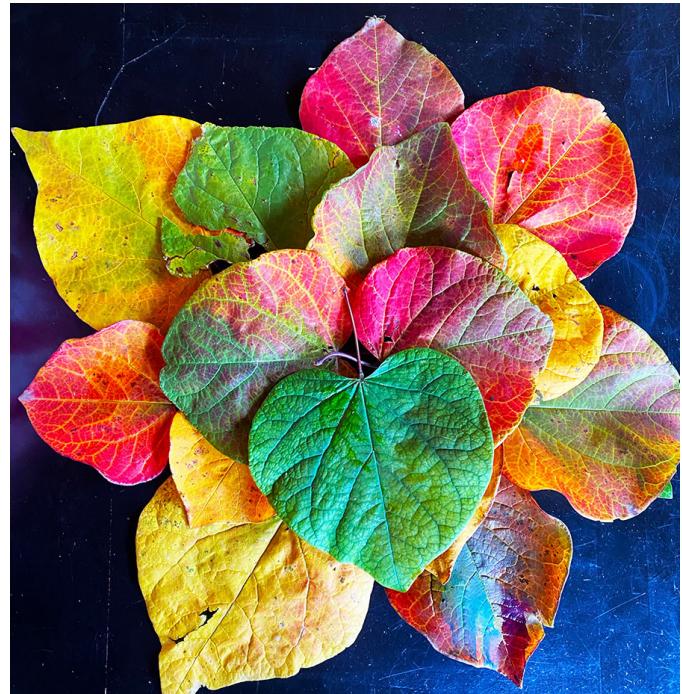
Collect a range of leaves

Line them up or make a mandala shape out of your leaves on your paper

You can trace around them and then paint them in with warm colours

Check out the colours of the leaves and see if you can match them with your paint colours

Talk about the different shapes and colours, what are your favorite autumn colours?



Extension to activity - Preserve the beauty of your leaves.

Using waxed paper

Iron your leaves in between two sheets of waxed paper. Place your leaves onto a sheet of waxed paper with the wax side facing inwards. Place another sheet of wax paper to cover your leaves with the wax side down. With the help of an adult, use an iron on a low setting, gently running your iron over the entire area of the wax paper surface. Do not leave the iron on the surface too long as it can burn the paper. This activity is also great when using petals of flowers!

Using laminating pockets

If you are lucky enough to have a laminating machine or you know someone who has one, there is another way to create some excellent results with leaves.

Place your leaves or petals into the laminating pocket. Create a pattern, you might like to make a row or a circle wreath. Feed your laminating pocket into the machine, seam first.

When completed, you can cut the shapes out and make mobiles or book marks.

Make an Echidna

Glue down a leaf onto a piece of paper. Using a black texta, draw the spikes of the echidna on the top of the leaf. At the tip of the leaf draw in his long nose. You can give him eyes with buttons or joggle eyes. Draw his front feet. Draw his back feet. Did you know an Echidna has his back feet on back to front, making it easier for great digging? This is a wonderful topic for discussion!

We would love to see some photos of your leaf creations. We can share them with other children on our social media. Send them to:
operations@opengardensvictoria.org.au