

Learning with Natural Materials

Nature Collections:

- rocks
- small sticks
- shells
- acorns
- pinecones
- leaves
- pine needles
- feathers
- cork
- bark pieces
- seeds
- seed pods
- plants
- moss
- dried flowers

Natural Materials:

- ceramic and clay pots
- woven baskets
- organic fabrics, yarns, and textiles
- wooden bowls, boxes, and containers
- water
- sand
- dirt
- clay

Activities:

- count
- sort
- order
- pattern
- compare
- describe
- sequence
- create designs
- invent games
- tell stories
- observe
- decorate
- measure
- scoop
- pour
- stack
- form

Things to Consider:

- small items that could be choked on should not be used by infants and toddlers
- use ethical collecting practices, model sustainable behaviors
- return items to nature when appropriate
- carefully consider the use of food-based items, respecting different cultural values
- invite families to share collections

