

Autumn Tinkering

Tinkering during play benefits children's motor skills by teaching them to use their hands to shape, manipulate and move. Tinkering also helps to develop problem solving skills whilst building peer relationships which support team work and collaboration. There are 6 cards each containing tinkering ideas around the theme of autumn. These are not meant to be lessons in themselves however opportunities for the children to explore and create. Much of this is child led with the idea that 10-15 minutes 'tinkering' per day will develop key practical and thinking skills. The list of resources is not exhaustive and is based around what is already in the classroom with a few seasonal extras.

Experiences and Outcomes

I can identify my senses and use them to explore the world around me. **SCN 0-12a**

Through creative play, I explore different materials and can share my reasoning for selecting materials for different purposes.

SCN 0-15a

I explore ways to design and construct models. **TCH 0-09a**

I explore everyday materials in creation of pictures/models/concepts

TCH 0-10a

Within real and imaginary settings, I am developing my practical skills as I select and work with a range of materials, tools and software. **TCH 0-12a**

I am learning to assess and manage risk, to protect myself and others, and to reduce the potential for harm when possible.

HWB 0-16a

In everyday activity and play, I explore and make choices to develop my learning and interests. I am encouraged to use and share my experiences **HWB 0-19a**



Horrifying Harvest

1

Exploring vegetables can have many benefits including children learning about their senses as they investigate familiar and unfamiliar vegetables. It also develops use tools and develop vocabulary.

Pumpkins

Variety of seasonal veg

Ice cream scoops

Spoons

Tweezers

Bowls

Pens

Magnifying glass

Pumpkin Scoop

Use different tools and hands to scoop out the pumpkins and explore what is inside. Repeat for other vegetables.

Seed Script

Use the pumpkin seeds to create letters, numbers and shapes.

Jack O'Lantern

Draw/carve facial features on the empty pumpkin to create a Jack O'Lantern.



I Don't Beleaf It

2

Leaves turn red and yellow when all the food (chlorophyll) present in the leaf is used up.

Chlorophyll absorbs sunlight and as this starts to decrease in autumn so does the chlorophyll.

Leaves (wet and dried)

Crayons

Paper

Glue

Magnifying glasses

Scissors

Category cards

Autumn Arranging

Use colours, shapes, pictures and words to provide categories to sort the leaves into.

Curious Creatures

Use different shapes, sizes and colours of leaves to create an autumnal creature.

Structure Scape

Explore the structure of a leaf by using an etch. Then rub over the leaf onto the paper and investigate the outlines too.



Astounding Apples

3

The balance of an object has everything to do with the distribution of mass. Children will quickly understand that if they either don't support their structure or their structure begins to lean that it can collapse very quickly.

Apples
Toothpicks
Wooden Blocks
Playdough

Braeburn Balance

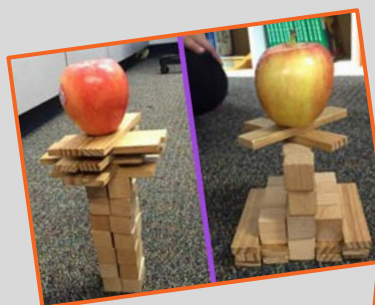
Investigate how many apples can be balanced on top of each other using only playdough for support.

Pink Lady Plinth

Build a plinth using wooden blocks that will hold the weight of the apple.

Toothpick Tower

Use toothpicks and chunks of apples to create the tallest freestanding tower possible with resources given.



Splish Splash

4

Objects float or sink due to density. The more dense an object is means that there are less air pockets and it is more likely to sink. Whereas less dense objects are more likely to float due to an increased number of air pockets.

Acorns

Fruit

Conkers

Twigs

String

Pipe Cleaners

Pine Cones

Basin with water

Pebbles

Vegetables

Tinfoil

Paper

Straws

Sink or Swim

Investigate the different items and whether they sink or float. See what happens when you cut/peel the fruits and vegetables.

Ship Ahoy

Create a boat using items that float and test it on the water.

Wacky Wands

Design and create a bubble wand using straws and pipe cleaners to create different shapes.



Snap, Crackle & Pop

5 When rice is cooked it expands and creates tiny air pockets. When liquid is added the walls absorb the liquid and this puts pressure on the air causing the walls to shatter. Which then creates the distinctive sound.

Paint
Water
Food colouring
Rice Krispies
Variety of paper
Pipe cleaners
Kitchen roll tubes
Popping candy

Cornflour
Bowls

Crackling Cereal

Fill spray bottles with a mixture of water and paint. Spray on the cereal to create pictures and colours whilst listening out for different sounds.

Fabulous Fireworks

Create 3D model fireworks using different collage and construction materials and give it a name.

Popping Gloop

Mix together cornflour, water and food dye. Add the popping candy and listen to what happens.



Peculiar Pasta

6

The ability to recognise patterns helps us make predictions based on our observations.

Understanding patterns help prepare children for learning complex number concepts and mathematical operations.

Spaghetti Pasta (cooked)

Use cut coloured straws as an alternative

Penne Pasta (uncooked)

Food Colouring

Vinegar

Forks

Tweezers

Plastic Numbers

Sum Spaghetti

Cook and dye the spaghetti with food colouring and add plastic numbers. Find the numbers to create and answers sums.

Penne Pattern

Dye the pasta with the vinegar and food dye and let dry. Create repeating patterns with different colours and shapes.

Linguine Letters

Form letters and numbers using coloured pasta.

