

Theme: Fall Pinecone Activities

Date: October 22, 2020

Hello StrongStart friends,

Today's email is put together by Teacher Sonika (from Moberly) and a circle time video from Teacher Valerie (Xpey').

While going on a nature walk with your little ones this fall, gather some pinecones for some activities to do at home. Here are three activities you can try. Remember, the process is more important than the product. So, allow the children to take their time and be creative. Encourage discussion, conversation and connection during the process. And most importantly, have fun!

Pinecone Painting



- Materials: a large box, paint, pinecones and paper.
- Instructions: Put the paper into the large box and squirt some paint in the middle of the paper. Add the pinecones into the box. Encourage your child to gently roll the pinecones in all directions. Look at the different patterns and colours being created! You can try rolling different size pinecones or try rolling other things like chestnuts and acorns!

Pinecone Bird Feeders (source: <https://preschoolinspirations.com/pine-cone-bird-feeders/>)



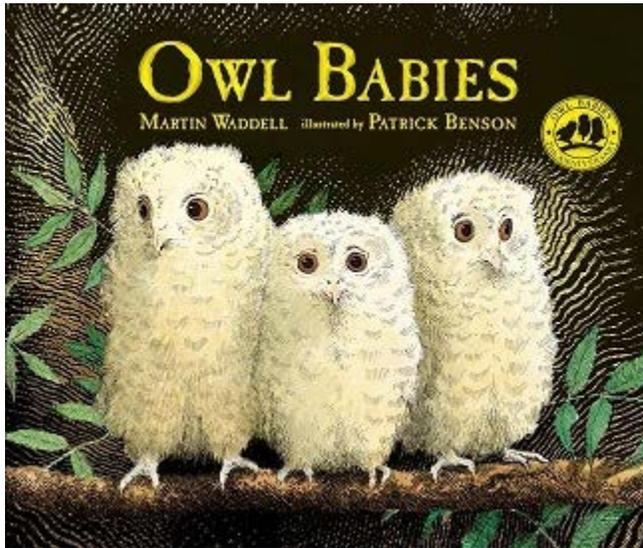
- Materials: Pinecones, peanut butter (if there is a nut allergy, you can use vegetable shortening), bird seeds, string, scissors and plastic knife or popsicle stick.
- Instructions: Cover the pinecone in peanut butter. Roll the pinecone in the bird seed. Shake off excess bird seeds. Once dry, tie a string to the pinecone to hang it on a tree outside.

Pinecone Owls



- Materials: pinecones, cotton balls, some colored paper (or felt), googly eyes (or small black coloured circles), glue.
- Instructions: Stuff the pinecone with cotton ball. Encourage the children to stretch the cotton ball over the pinecone (this is good for fine motor skills). Talk about the texture of the pinecone versus the texture of the cotton ball. Is one softer or pricklier? Once they feel like the owl is stuffed enough, cut out small circles and triangles for the owl's face.

After making your little pinecone owls, gather them and sit down for a book called "Owl Babies" by Martin Waddell - <https://youtu.be/TPQRiSTYFH0>.



To finish up today's email, let's join Teacher Valerie for a circle time about fall colours, numbers and shapes - <https://youtu.be/MmsFVTAr11M>.

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