

Autumn Leaves

You will need

Plastic round ended knife,
Old toothbrush Or a plastic scrubbing brush
Coloured paper (optional, can use plain paper or even newspaper)
Assorted shaped leaves
Plastic tray or dish (need to be able to fit the scrubbing brush if that is what you are going to use)
Water
Plastic spoon
Wear an apron or an old shirt

Note: this activity needs to be either done outside or you could use a cardboard box to minimise splatter on to surfaces. Lay a cardboard box onto one of its sides. Open out its flaps. Cut off the top of the box, leaving the bottom and sides in place. Put paper in there and the sides act as a shelter for any paint 'splatter'. If not use lots of newspaper to cover surfaces.

What to do

Lay a sheet of paper on some newspaper or inside the cardboard box if using one. Arrange some leaves on the top of the paper.

Pour some paint into the dish or in the bowl and mix it with a little water using the plastic spoon. The paint should be quite runny.

Dip a scrubbing brush into the dish/tray and gently shake off the excess paint.

Hint: it is a good idea to let your child practise drawing the plastic knife across the brush before any paint is applied.

Hold the brush in front of a leaf. Draw the blade of a plastic knife sharply towards you across the bristles. Or on the toothbrush.

Move the brush around as you splatter each leaf and the surrounding paper.

Keep the paper flat until the paint has dried. Then lift off the leaves. You will see the shapes of the leaves surrounded by splattered paint.

To extend the activity you could:

Make lots of single leaf shapes in different colours. Cut them out leaving a thick border of splatter paint. Make a leaf collage by gluing your shapes onto a sheet of paper.