

Leaf Printing for Kids

A few tips for this activity.

If you have leftover corks, you can use them to make your own stamps. You will need a glue gun and a regular household sponge. You will cut the sponge into pieces to fit the tip of the cork and secure with hot glue. Adults must do this part.



If you don't have corks, you can use plastic bottle tops about 2 inches in diameter for little hands. This will be an additional stamp to the leaves themselves. If you don't have that its ok. 😊

1. Go outside and look for leaves.
2. Gather your materials, paint, paper and a roller or brayer. If you don't have one you can use the side of a smooth bottle or jar, preferable plastic to avoid breakage if it falls to the floor.
3. Gather brushes or sponges, pour paint on plastic or paper plates. About a quarter size of paint is good. If you don't have brushes, use your fingers.
4. Paint the leaf in one or various colors on one side.
5. Hold the leaf carefully and place paint side down on paper.
6. Place another clean piece of paper on top.
7. Roll with a brayer or bottle.
8. Lift the paper carefully. Lift the leaf carefully.



9. You are now ready to make a second print that can be next to the previous or overlapping.
10. **Note:** If you use 8 x 11 paper or cardstock, you can create cards for any occasion. You can purchase envelopes online or just hand the card to that special someone.

Variation:

If you have a real leaf you can also paint on it instead of paper. Using Q tips with regular acrylic paint or 3D paint (puffy or slick paint) decorate with dots. Make patterns.



You can also use fake leaves. The fake ones will be easier to use as a door wreath etc. for decorating.

You can place the leaves on the paper and paint around them. Then lift the leaves leaving a white or negative impression. This can introduce the concept of negative and positive space in art. You can add metallic paint or cut pictures to the size of the leaf prints to make a nice photo collage. In addition, you can help children understand the difference between organic and geometric shapes.



Resources: Blick.com, Youtube