

Portraits from Natural Loose Parts

Outcome: Setting up opportunities for children to play with interesting materials like loose parts provides children a chance to explore, invent, and imagine in all kinds of ways. This creative play experience focuses on the process of creating something instead of an end product. While product-based art focuses on how the result should look, process-based art values the experience of creating a unique piece of art, exploring materials, and trying different techniques.

Materials Needed:

1. Natural loose parts picked up during a nature walk.
2. Other loose parts like bottle caps, yarn/ribbons, beads, fabrics, and straws from home, if desired.
3. A mirror, if doing a self-portrait.

How:

- Take a bag or a container and go on a nature walk with your child.
- Collect items like rocks, sticks, leaves, and pinecones.
- Use what you collect to create a self-portrait, an animal portrait, a family portrait, or a portrait of any object.
- You can give your child a mirror to see their faces if they decide to do a self-portrait. They can also place the loose parts on the mirror while creating their portrait.