



Children create art and patterns by arranging different pieces of material in different shapes. These are then glued onto paper or cardboard.

For safety, make sure all collage items are non-poisonous, and items for children under three are larger than 5cm diameter so that they cannot be swallowed and activity is supervised by an adult.

When using natural materials for collage, it is important to talk with children about respecting nature and sustaining the environment. For example, only use leaves, flowers and twigs that have fallen from the tree. Natural materials should be collected in culturally appropriate ways. For example by leaving the central shoot and leaves either side when harvesting flax.

What you will need:

- tools such as strong glue, round-ended scissors, staplers, tape, string
- large and small boxes, cartons, tubes, containers, lids
- paper and cardboard - white, coloured, lined, unlined, greeting cards, envelopes, crepe, silver, cellophane, magazines
- string, cord, wool, tape, twine (all colours and thicknesses)
- fabric - velvet, lace, cotton, wool, hessian (all colours and thicknesses)
- natural materials – feathers, stones, shells, driftwood, wood offcuts, non-poisonous leaves, petals, dried flowers, moss, flax, seeds, pine cones.

This activity can help children to:

- learn skills such as gluing, sticking, taping, stapling, cutting, tearing
- experiment with different resources
- be creative and learn about design, dimension and composition
- gain concentration skills
- learn to solve problems and develop their own ideas.

Adults can support children by:

- keeping spaces and materials tidy and uncluttered
- making sure there is enough equipment and that it is in working order
- having a wide variety of resources available
- talking and listening to them
- using rich descriptive language when talking with them about what they are doing and the equipment and materials they are using
- showing them how to use tools, such as scissors and staplers, properly and safely
- talking with them about environmental sustainability and respecting nature.

