

Garden signs

Literacy

What you need:

- Paper, pencil
- Wooden discs
- Leaves
- Wooden skewers, sticks
- String
- Paint made from crushed chalk, mud and water



What to do:

1. Walk around the garden/outdoor play area with the children and discuss the different characteristics of the area (sandy area, digging area, grassy area etc.)
2. Try to sketch a map that will help the children in preparing the signs.
3. To make the paint: mix four thumb-sized lumps of crushed chalk with 50g clay and add water gradually until you are happy with the consistency.
4. Paint onto the wooden discs or leaves to indicate areas.
5. Secure the discs or leaves onto the wooden sticks with string and hang in the relevant areas.

What's in it for the children?

Children can develop an understanding of the connection between print, words and meaning. They will be able to practise making marks.

Taking it forward

- Paint the children's names with chalk-mud paint.
- Make signs for the plants.
- Make signs with different symbols.

Observation questions

- Is the child interested in mark making?
- What is the child's preferred way to make marks?
- Is the child able to negotiate and listen to others?



50 fantastic things to do with mud and clay