

Natural pictures

To encourage children's creativity and an awareness of colour within the natural environment. Children will also learn to care for the plant life in the nature reserve.

Resources

- A5 sheets of paper. Watercolour paper is good for this activity
- Clip boards or card to lean on

Activity

Working in small groups with an adult children collect a few lengths of grass, fallen green leaves, fallen petals, a few flowers from those which are abundant in the reserve e.g. Rosebay Willowherb. A volunteer from the nature reserve can advise on what could be used without impacting on the diversity of plant life. Also it is important to avoid poisonous plants such as Foxglove.

Once they have a collection of several things the group can sit on their plastic bags and begin rubbing the leaves and petals on to their paper. By magic a picture emerges!

Once they know how it works the children may go to find more colours. They may be interested in how many different greens there are in nature!

Follow up

- Back at school the children can help to choose the colour for backing paper for mounting their work for a display. Children could add their own written accounts describing how to make a natural picture. Arrange some leaves, grasses and flowers in vases in front of the display encouraging the children to notice the colours of nature. In the creative area provide water colour paints and pastel crayons to try to replicate the colours found in nature.

Visit CVCg.org.uk for more activity sheets and information about our nature reserve

