

# Nature Art Play Activity

## For Children Aged 2-5



### **Supplies**

- Natural loose parts – sticks, leaves, pine cones, rocks and pebbles, conkers, acorns etc.
- Bowls or baskets to hold loose parts
- Tuff tray or flat surface
- Books to prompt thinking. We like 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson and 'Not a Stick' by Antionette Portis
- \*Optional: Paper and materials that can be used to join (staples, glue, tape etc.)\*



### **Quick Set up Instructions**

This is the perfect activity to set up in your outdoor area!

1. Lay out a selection of natural loose parts (in interesting bowls, baskets or containers) on a tuff tray or flat surface.
2. Lay out any chosen books to use as inspiration or to encourage talk.
3. Do not be tempted to set up an example – let the children have free-reign to use their imaginations and express themselves. Even if you do not end up with stick people as you envisaged, remember that the activity is about the process and not the end product!

\*Instead of setting up as a transient art activity, you could also provide paper and glue so the children can make permanent pictures.\*



### **Key Prompts and Questions**

- "I am using my sticks to make a person/animal."
- "I wonder which parts would work best as (eyes, legs, the face etc.)?"
- "I am going to use this short stick. Your stick is longer than mine."
- "My favourite part of the story was when...Which part of the story did you like the best?"
- "I can change the way my stick person looks by swapping the loose parts around. Now he has big eyes!"
- Refer to parts of the story you have read as you are playing. You could even begin to re-enact key scenes.

# Nature Art Play Activity

## For Children Aged 2-5

### ? Key Vocab

.....

- Language directly linked to the story.
  - Story language: once upon a time, all of a sudden, there was/were, said, the end etc.
  - Bigger, smaller, longer, shorter, thinner, thicker, wider.
  - Positional language: next to, beside, on top, underneath, around.
  - Colour names
  - Shape names
  - Stick, rock, pebble, pine cone, conker, acorn, natural, loose parts.
- .....

### ? Key Outcomes

.....

#### Communication and Language

##### Listening and Attention

Maintains attention, concentrates and sits quietly during appropriate activity.

Two-channelled attention - can listen and do for short span.

##### Understanding

Listens and responds to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion

##### Speaking

Extends vocabulary, especially by grouping and naming, exploring the meaning and sounds of new words.

Uses language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences in play situations.

Links statements and sticks to a main theme or intention.

Uses talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events.

Introduces a storyline or narrative into their play.

#### Expressive Arts and Design

##### Exploring and using media and materials

Constructs with a purpose in mind, using a variety of resources.

##### Being Imaginative

Create simple representations of events, people and objects.

Chooses particular colours to use for a purpose.

Introduces a storyline or narrative into their play.

Plays alongside other children who are engaged in the same theme.

Plays cooperatively as part of a group to develop and act out a narrative.