

# Nature Play Ideas

## Nature Rainbows

Collect colorful leaves and petals and sort by color. Use glue on paper to make a rainbow or any pattern you like! Great activity to do in spring and summer with flowers, and leaves in the fall.



## Contact Paper Nature Collage

Collect colorful leaves and petals. Place contact paper with the sticky side up and frame with paper or sticks. Put leaves and flowers on the contact paper in any design or pattern you like. Put another piece of contact paper on top to seal the flowers and leaves.



## Nature Sensory Jars

Collect colorful leaves and petals and place in mason jars or other plastic/glass containers that have a lid. Add water and optional to add a few drops of food dye. Cover the jars. Shake and twirl the jars to see the flowers and leaves dance!





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## Leaf Animals

Collect leaves and petals. Use scissors and/or craft hole punches to make different shapes on the leaves. Glue on paper and use markers to add details. Adding googly eyes are extra fun! Think of all the different animals you can create.



## Leaf Puzzles

Collect leaves and petals and spread them out on paper. Trace the leaves with markers. Shuffle the leaves and put the leaves back on their outline to complete the puzzle.

Variation: Cut leaves in half and complete the puzzle by finding the matching half!



## Leaf Stamping

Collect leaves and use washable paint to paint on one side of the leaves. Press the leaves on paper. Lift up the leaf to reveal the leaf stamp!





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## Frozen Flower Water Play

Collect colorful leaves and petals and put them into a muffin tin. Add water and/or food coloring and place in a freezer. Once frozen, use warm water and kid-friendly utensils/kitchen tools to break down the frozen creations. Enjoy the water play!



## Make a Nature Scene

Use different items to make a nature scene! Some options are:

- Play dough/clay
- Kinetic Sand
- Shells
- Rocks/pebbles
- Leaves/flowers
- Twigs/pine cones
- Beads
- Dried beans/lentils/rice
- Small toy animals/bugs (or can paint animals on smooth rocks)

Ocean variation: Put stale cereal in a food processor to make the sand. To make the bubbly water, put a cup of water, a generous squirt of dishwashing liquid and a few drops of blue food dye into a food processor. Add animals and have fun!

