

## Nature Designs

Nature engages all of our senses. In this activity children use their senses to explore natural materials and use their imaginations to combine these items into their own “nature designs.”



### **In The Wonder Cabinet:**

Today, *The Wonder Cabinet* is providing an opportunity for children to explore a variety of natural materials such as wood, rocks, feathers and herbs. Children are encouraged to explore the textures, weight, colors and even scents of these items. The materials can then be combined in unique ways; spreading them out to create nature designs or building a 3-dimensional nature sculpture.

Many artists find inspiration in nature and there are many artists who incorporate natural materials into their artwork. Andy Goldsworthy is a professional artist who creates using a variety of natural materials. Much of his artwork is created outdoors and changes (or at times even disappears) over time.

### **At Home:**

Take a nature walk in a park or in your own backyard and collect items with your child for your own nature designs. The materials can be used indoors or out and can be used over and over. Taking an occasional photograph of a design can help children document their nature-inspired artwork. Your child can also incorporate these natural materials into other aspects of their play – the sand box, block building, pretend play, etc.

### **Suggested materials:**

- Sticks
- Rocks
- Feathers
- Flowers & petals
- Leaves
- Herbs such as lavender, rosemary, and mint