



# Dose of Discovery: Week 4

## Extension Activity

### Nature Painting



### Learning Points:

- Children will have the opportunity to apply in a creative way what they learned about the physical science of chromatography and the science of color.
- Children will be able to be creative and artistic about the natural world.

### Materials:

- A few twigs and handful of pine leaves collected on the Nature Walk for each kid
- Some string to tie the brushes together
- $\frac{3}{4}$  - 1 cup flower petals/stems per color collected in small bags on the Nature Walk (or you can use leftover Mother's Day flowers that have drooped and died)
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  - 2 cups water per color
- 1 Tbsp. flour per color
- Small pot and a stovetop
- Strainer and something to crush the petals/stems (i.e. pestle or a smooth rock)
- Small bowls to put each color in (preferably see through)

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### Activity:

## Creating Flower Petal/Stem Paint

### Step 1:

Have the kids pull off the petals and group like colors together. You can use small clear bowls that have measuring lines on the sides so that it is easy to measure how much of each color you have collected.

### Step 2:



Bring water and flower petals of 1 color to a boil over medium-high heat in a pot. Turn heat to low. Simmer for half an hour. Place a strainer over a bowl and drain the colored



water through the strainer. Press the petals to get maximum color.



### Step 3:

Put the water back into the pot and whisk in the flour. Bring it to a boil, stirring the whole time. Remove from heat. Repeat process for each color.

### Result:

The paints will have different smells depending on the type of flowers used and the colors may surprise you. Before you make each color, have the kids hypothesize about what color they think will result. If other colors are the result, discuss what factors may have contributed to that. You can also experiment and see what would happen if you mixed several colors of flower petals together.

## Creating Natural Paint Brushes

### Step 1:

Lay the string out flat on your surface. Layer the evergreen leaves around your stick until you have a good-sized brush.

### Step 2:

While still holding the twig/leaves, gently lay it down onto the string. Let go slowly – most of the leaves should still stay in place. Tie the string at least twice around each paintbrush so that the leaves would be secure. Tie as many times as you have to in order for your leaves to stay in place.



Create your own beautiful painting using your natural paint and brushes.

Get creative and have fun!