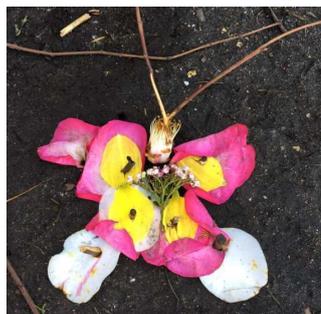


Free Range Play at home

Transient Art

In the forest we often see children spontaneously use the natural environment to create art. Sometimes we provide an invitation by setting out 'picture frames' made from 4 sticks and collecting some natural materials to get them started. However it starts this, is not

intended to be a structured art project it's more a creative way to express yourself however you want.



I have attached some examples of some transient art created by some 2-8 year olds outside at forest school. If you have a garden you can easily collect some natural materials at this time of year. On the white paper is an example of some of the materials I collected from my garden plus a couple of things I had in my cupboard.



But what if you don't have a garden so can't go out and collect leaves and petals?

The amazing thing about transient art is it is an open ended creative activity that uses things you have lying around. So in the forest and garden that might be leaves, petals, sticks, stones, grass etc.



Indoors it could be bottle tops, corks, string or wool, cut up kitchen or toilet roll tubes, seeds from the butternut squash you had for dinner, old keys, coins, anything really (some examples on the blue paper). The important thing is to not direct and let the children lead the way.



The key to this type of play is that there is no right or wrong way to do it. It's not about recreating a picture someone else has made or placing the items in specific places. It's about providing the resources and letting the children use their imagination to create whatever they want.

As the adult you may have to suggest having a go at making some art and can play alongside your child, maybe making your own art (it's very therapeutic) but it shouldn't be directed by you. Let the children take it in their own direction, they will probably have much better ideas than you that will wow you!



For more info on structured v's unstructured play see <https://wildaboutplay.com/structured-vs-unstructured-play/>