

6a Group Arts and Crafts - Lower Primary

Collections of Natural Materials

- Collect natural materials from the local environment to take back to your centre, classroom, playgroup etc. Use the materials to sort and classify into groups.
- Find out how did the local indigenous groups traditionally use these materials and are they still being used today?
- Use these materials for art experiences, counting, weighing and patterning.
- Use the materials to tell or retell a story. Combine with other items such as hand or finger puppets, small toys or other props for story telling. Find out information about the animals in the story. Find out about the local language and use this to label the animal

Books to inspire.....

Bartja and Mayila– Sue Atkinson and Annette Sax, *Going Bush*– Nadia Wheatley



An emu and kangaroo made with natural materials and inspired by a traditional story 'Kootear the Echidna'

Natural Material People

Indigenous groups around Australia use natural materials to make twine or string for many different uses. With the string or twine people would play games and tell stories or use it to make items such as dilly bags, nets and mats. Collect books, posters, samples of natural materials as baskets, mats, nets etc to display on a table so the children can refer to this.

- Find where in your local area this natural fibre can be found.
- Collect natural materials such as grasses, leaves, feathers and small branches and use these to make a small figure.



Figures were made using paperbark, leaves, sticks and emu feathers and bound together using wire and pva glue. These figures were inspired by a traditional story and made by 8 year old Sarah.

Recycled Materials and Collaged Box Sculptures

Collect a variety of boxes eg. Cereal and other packaging materials, buttons, pieces of fabric. You will also need paint and paint brushes, assorted markers, pva glue, scissors and tape.

- Share a story that has animals in it. Identify the characters and using the materials make your favourite animals or character from one of the stories that you have shared.

Books to inspire.....

Kootear the Echidna– Cindy Laws, *Wargan the Crow*—Cindy Laws, *How fish were made*- Aurora Hilvert-Bruce and Elether Bruce

6b Group Arts and Crafts - Lower Primary

Collections of Natural Materials

- Provide assorted materials such as paints, soft pastels, ochre on natural materials or fabric, charcoal, coloured markers etc for the children to draw a self portrait.

Brainstorm words that describe who they children are making sure that they are positive and words that will empower the children and have them write 5 things is such as:

My name is and I am from We are on country.
I am really good at My family and I like to My role model is

- Change the questions or statements to a piece of poetry.

Music to Inspire

Aunty Wendy's Mob 'Happy to be me' CD has many songs that are about being strong and proud.

- The CD is supported by a teachers note book and this has the actions to the songs plus many more learning experiences around culture
- Learn the song and actions to a song from this CD
- You might like to use this activity for a performance.
- You could also use the songs from other artists and make up your own dance to the music.

Colours of Country

Select one of the following children's books to share and inspire an art project.

Outback-Bronwyn Bancroft and Annalise Porter

Patterns of Australia-Bronwyn Bancroft

Walking the seasons in Kakadu-Dianne Lucas

- Discuss the meaning of 'country'.
- Select one of the books to read to the class. Brainstorm the ideas that are from in the story to develop a web of ideas.
- Using the elements of art of line, shape, texture, colour, space, light and shadow, emotion and mood discuss some of the illustrations from the story or stories.
- Using cameras take photos of the local environment and print and write as a group or individually a book that shows the colours and landscape of your 'country'.

Art Exhibition

Celebrate the day or week by collecting all the art works that the children have made and display these by having a community art exhibition. The children can design and write out the invitations, programme etc to the families and make the recipes on the following pages to be served. Invite a local group of performers and invite an elder to 'open' the NAICDC and art exhibition.

The following is a photograph that I have taken of an area where I have held an art exhibition and it is in the school grounds. This area is known as the Gnulla Mia and it was a year long project that involved everyone across the school and the local community. This area is an outdoor classroom and a meeting place for all.



Photo: Gnulla Mia East Waikiki Primary School, Western Australia