

Let Nature feed your senses



Alternative drawing

The aim in this session is to try new approaches to drawing using the things that you might have to hand in a farm setting.

Collect materials

Granular stuff like feed, seed, gravel, sand
'Waste' stuff like damaged vegetables or fruit
Found stuff like leaves, twigs, stones, sticks
You might want to have some other stuff like chalks, crayons or felt tips and stuff for joining things like staplers, tape or glue. Think if there is stuff that you use on your farm that could do these jobs.

Make three sets of cards.

Using different coloured card for the different types of words will make them easier to sort and re-use as a resource. You might want to think about getting them laminated if they will be handled a lot. Use permanent ink if they could get wet/damp.

Set 1: Numbers.

Make a set of cards with numbers 1-10 on them. If you are working with large groups you might want to duplicate the numbers so you have a set of 20 cards. If you are working with very young children you might want to do 1-5.

Set 2: Colours

Make a set of cards with different colours on. You might want to have simple basic colours like red, green, yellow or try more adventurous words like 'burnt', 'fresh', or 'sunkissed'. You need to make sure that the word colours you choose will fit the materials you have to hand. Participants will be very frustrated if they get the word blue and there is nothing appropriate in the materials. You might want to change these colours with the seasons.

Set 3: Shape words

Make a set of cards with different words that relate to shapes. For example, spiral, pointy, zig zag. N.B. Artist top tip: Go for words like circular rather than circle, triangular rather than triangle. This will allow participants some freedom from being too rigid in their interpretation of the shapes.

Now what?

You might want to divide your participants into small groups or let them work individually. Each group gets a card from each set i.e. a number, a colour and a shape. The task is to use the materials that you have to build a 'pattern' that reflects those words. They might lay out swirls of feed on the floor; they might make a pattern out of carrots, they might staple leaves together.

N.B. Artist top tip: Focus on working with pattern or an abstract theme. Don't try and work in a representational way (i.e. it looks just like a photograph of the subject). It's about having fun with materials rather than making a permanent picture of 'something'. Some people might prefer to make a picture of a bug or a tree. You decide if you want to lead them that way!

You might want to think about what happens to the work at the end of the session. Does it get swept up? Eaten by animals? Do the participants take it home? In which case do those things have to be 'stuck' down with something (adhesive?) on to something (card? Waste containers?). If they are working 3D, can they carry them? Do they need a box or a bag to carry it in?

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