

Your Learning Connection



SUN PRINTS

This fun sun print activity is perfect for a sunny summer day. It will not only produce beautiful art, but also show the importance of sunscreen and shade! Watch as the magic happens right before your eyes!

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

- Will different plants or different shapes work better than others?
- Make 2 sun prints - place one in the window and the other outside in direct sunlight, then compare the two!
- Use black paper and create a design with sunscreen!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Construction paper (darker paper is best)
- Flowers, leaves and any items you want to print
- Clear tape
- Sun / a window



DIRECTIONS:

1. Head out on a nature hike and gather your items. Collect flowers, leaves or any item you want to make a sun print of.
2. Create a design with your items on the paper.
3. Gently flatten any flowers or plants.
 - a. If hanging in a window: Carefully tape down your plants.
 - b. If laying your paper outside: you can weigh your plants down with rocks.
4. Leave your paper in the direct sunlight for a few hours
5. When ready, carefully remove your plants from the paper to reveal your beautiful sun prints!
6. Add your print to your Nature Journal

The sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays can break down the bonds in things like the dyes in the construction paper which then will change the color of the paper. The parts of the paper that were covered by your objects, you will notice the paper did not change color. The UV rays were blocked and unable to damage the paper.