

# Integrated Curriculum Projects

Exploring Natural Materials from Papatūānuku

Dates: 17th-28th May 2021 (Sarah)

**Objective:** Recognition of the wonderful natural resources found in our environment and awareness of creative ways we can use these in craft activities, ephemeral art, play, for sorting, comparing, classifying. Sharing ideas about conservation and sustainability education. Developing a sense of wonder and awe through observing the changes of the seasons.

## Te Whāriki

**Wellbeing:** The children's emotional wellbeing is nurtured by connecting with nature. They are free to use their imagination while using the natural resources and will have a sense of agency in their work.

**Belonging:** The children know that they have a place and can feel a connection with the wider world. They can bring along natural resources they have found at home or in their local community.

**Contribution:** Children will be encouraged to learn with and alongside others. Opportunities will be provided to talk together about moral and ethical issues around conservation.

**Communication:** Children can develop different ways to be creative. Natural resources can be used in a range of ways.

**Exploration:** Children can learn strategies for active exploration, thinking and reasoning. Scientific investigations around changing seasons, why are leaves sometimes green? Look at fractal geometry and fibonacci sequences occurring in nature.

## Resources and Materials:

- "Which NZ Tree?" & "Which NZ Shell?"- Books by Andrew Crowe, other non-fiction books about seasons and the natural world
- Natural resources such as Autumn leaves of various sizes and shapes, petals, driftwood, shells, dried seaweed...
- Black felt circles and squares for ephemeral art
- Images of ephemeral art from around the world
- Large needles and wool for threading
- Wooden tray for resources
- Magnifying glasses



## Starting Points:

- The changes in the seasons - weather, deciduous versus ever green (Only 11 of the 260 native trees of New Zealand lose all of their leaves in the autumn)
- Observations- colours changing, leaves falling, weather cooling, raining more? Look at the variety of leaves around Small is Beautiful. Collect them. Collect natural resources from home, the park, the beach. Compare and share ideas. Size, colour, how many? How do they feel? How do they smell? Look for the beauty, symmetry, patterns found in our world.
- Leaves can be sorted by colour, type, size. Shells can be classified too. How can they be used in imaginative play? Dishes? Food for fairies? Treasure? Birds' nests?....
- Name cards can be added to the ephemeral art to identify the artist if photos are taken
- Wool and large needles can be used for threading leaves and possibly shells to create necklaces or decorations. Sticks can also be used.