

STEM

starts now

Nature Jewelry

Recommended Age: 53-60 Months

STEM concepts: Science (life science, physical science), Technology (simple tools), Engineering(Engineering), Math (patterns and classification)

Materials: a collection of nature (leaves, pebbles, sticks, twigs, pine cones, pine needles, acorns, seeds bark, petals), thick ribbon, glue, a bag, a tray

What to do: Go for a nature walk at a local park. Using the bag, collect small things found in nature listed above but not limited to this list. Return home and empty the bag onto a tray. Piece the pieces together to form bracelets and necklaces. Do this by attaching them together or by gluing them to thick ribbon.

Language and Communication: Talk about the different pieces found in nature. Discuss where they are finding them and what condition they are in. Are these things dead or alive? Are they different shapes and colors? Did they come from different things? Plan with your child how they will use the items they found. Developing plans help them navigate difficult or easy situations in their real world. How will the items piece together? Ask them what they are doing while they do it.

Expand the Activity: Create several pieces and with your full attention and help, make a small stand at a local park to sell them to passerby people, or sell them to family and family friends. This adds a new content area with math and introduces your child to product and demand, working for money concepts and gives them ownership of their work. They also have the great opportunity to purchase something with their hard earned money.

