



Cauliflower Craft



It's winter on the farm, and Tractor Ted is helping to harvest cauliflowers. The textures, colours and shapes of a cauliflower make a great inspiration for art - and children can also use cauliflower florets as a printing resource.

THESE ACTIVITIES...

- help children to practise the techniques of printing, sticking and modelling
- encourage the creative exploration of colour, texture and pattern
- offer lots of opportunity for making creative choices
- offer lots of opportunity for listening to and following instructions
- encourage children to use a variety of hand movements, including gripping, squeezing and pressing

CAULI PRINTS

WHAT TO DO

Cut a cauliflower into florets and slice off the top of each floret to create a flat printing surface. Using the stem as a handle, dip the floret into paint and print textured 'blobs'. Slice some of the florets lengthways and try printing tree shapes. Use the florets as paintbrushes as well as printing tools, and compare the different effects.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Experiment with colour combinations - for example, printing with green paint on green paper, or green paint on black paper.
- Make a series of prints with just one 'dip'. Look at how the prints become fainter as the paint is used up.
- Introduce simple pattern making. Draw a pencil grid on paper and show children how to make a cauliflower print in each square, alternating colours to create a repeating pattern,

CAULIFLOWER COLOURS

Cauliflower heads vary from white to cream to pale yellow. Experiment with mixing white, yellow and a tiny amount of brown to make a creamy coloured paint for cauliflower craft activities.



CAULI COLLAGE

WHAT TO DO

Mix up shades of green paint and ask the children to cover paper with cauliflower prints. Cut the paper into leaf shapes and help the children to stick rings of leaves onto background card. Provide collage items for sticking in the centre of the leaf ring to make the cauliflower head. Try cotton wool, circles of bubble wrap painted white and cream, crumpled white tissue, woolly pompoms and pieces of popcorn.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Encourage the children to choose which resources they want to use for their cauliflower head. Once the collage is finished, help them to review their choices.
- For small, fiddly items such as popcorn, it's easier to put glue on the background than the item.
- Make a 'muddy field' background for the collage caulis - see 'Mucky Messy Play'.

CAULI MODELS

WHAT TO DO

Let children explore making cauliflower-like textures in the surface of clay. Try pinching and punching holes with fingers, roughening the surface with a plastic fork and making impressions with the bobby head of a cauliflower floret. When the children have finished exploring, help them to model pieces of clay into the shape of a rough ball and give the ball a textured surface to represent the cauliflower head. Leave the balls to dry before painting with white or cream paint. Put crumpled green tissue in large, sturdy muffin cases, secure with a blob of glue, and rest the textured balls on top to make a 'cauli model'...

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Give younger children a choice of just two or three texture tools. Encourage older ones to think of other tools to experiment with.
- Playdough can be softer than clay for little hands to work, although surface textures don't show up quite so easily. As the natural colour of homemade playdough is similar to cauliflower, it doesn't need painting.
- When rolling the clay or playdough balls, double check that they are the right size for the muffin cases.



PLAYDOUGH RECIPE

Makes a ball of dough about the size of a large orange

Mix together one cup of plain flour, a quarter cup of salt, three teaspoons of vinegar or lemon juice, two tablespoons of vegetable oil and half a cup of water. Cook over a low heat, stirring regularly, until the mixture forms a doughy texture. As soon as the dough is cool enough to handle, knead into a ball. Wrap in cling film and store in an airtight tin.

