“It is, by common consent, a good thing for people to get back to nature.”
- Aldo Leopold

Every time of year is a great time to get outside with your family to play and enjoy nature. Right now, the fall landscape is full of different things to see, hear and feel. You might hear the song of some of our cold weather inhabitants like dark-eyed juncos and black-capped chickadees, find a pile of nutshells discarded by a squirrel, or simply delight in the crunch of leaves under your feet.

The cool thing, you don’t have to be hiking on a trail. While you’re outside, gather some leaves, seeds, dried flowers and twigs for an art project. Use your imagination and create something entirely new. You may also need colored pencils or markers, paper and glue...depending on what you choose to create.

**Make your own nature art**

**Materials:** Paper, glue, colored pencils or markers, and items collected from outside (leaves, seeds, flowers, twigs and pebbles)

**Directions:**
1. Examine each item you collected from outside. What does its shape remind you of? How about its color and texture? The bark on a twig could look like the stripes on a raccoon’s tail. The shape of a leaf could remind you of a boat.
2. Imagine a scene that turns some of your collected items into what they reminded you of.
3. Draw that scene with your markers or colored pencils, gluing your gathered items into place on the paper.