

Core Skills Analysis

Science - Nature Exploration

- Roo learned to observe and recognize the textures and patterns on tree bark through direct tactile interaction.
- He developed an awareness of different tree characteristics by examining the surface to create the rubbing effect.
- The activity introduced Roo to a hands-on method of studying natural objects without damaging them.
- He gained an understanding of how surfaces with varied textures can transfer visual patterns onto paper through rubbing.

Art

- Roo practiced fine motor skills by rubbing chalk evenly over the paper to transfer the bark pattern.
- He explored color use by selecting chalk and experimenting with shading to highlight the texture.
- He discovered an artistic technique that combines nature and creativity, linking science with visual art.
- Roo learned about contrast and the way chalk color reveals surface details on bark.

Tips

Tips: To enhance Roo's learning from tree rubbing, consider taking an outdoor nature walk to collect leaves and bark samples to compare textures and patterns. Use different materials such as crayons, charcoal, or colored pencils to experiment with how various mediums affect the rubbing results. Incorporate journaling by having Roo describe the trees, textures, and sensations he experienced during the activity, fostering observation skills and vocabulary related to nature. Finally, try identifying the type of tree based on bark characteristics, encouraging research skills and connecting the art activity to biological classification.

Book Recommendations

- [A Tree is Nice](#) by Janice May Udry: A poetic and gentle exploration of why trees are special in our world, promoting appreciation of nature.
- [The Listening Walk](#) by Paul Showers: A story that encourages children to observe and listen while walking outdoors, complementing sensory learning with nature.
- [Nature's Art Box: Creating Great Art Using Nature and Simple Supplies](#) by Julia Pritchard: A creative guide to combining natural materials with art techniques, inspiring hands-on environmental creativity suitable for children.

Learning Standards

- Science: KS1 identifying and naming common plants and describing basic structure (UK National Curriculum - Science Y2 - Plants)
- Art and Design: Use a range of materials creatively to design and make products; experiment with shading and line (UK National Curriculum - Art and Design Y2)
- PSHE: Developing concentration, mindfulness, and appreciation of the environment (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education)

Try This Next

- Create a texture identification worksheet with pictures of various bark patterns for Roo to match with his rubbings.

- Design a nature journal drawing challenge where Roo sketches different types of bark and writes descriptive words.
- Quiz prompt: What patterns and shapes did you notice in the tree bark? How does chalk help reveal these details?

Growth Beyond Academics

This activity offers Roo a calm and focused opportunity for sensory exploration, boosting concentration and curiosity about the natural world. The hands-on approach can build confidence as he creates visible results from his efforts, encouraging pride in discovery and patience in delicate motor skills.