

Autumn Blanket Weaving

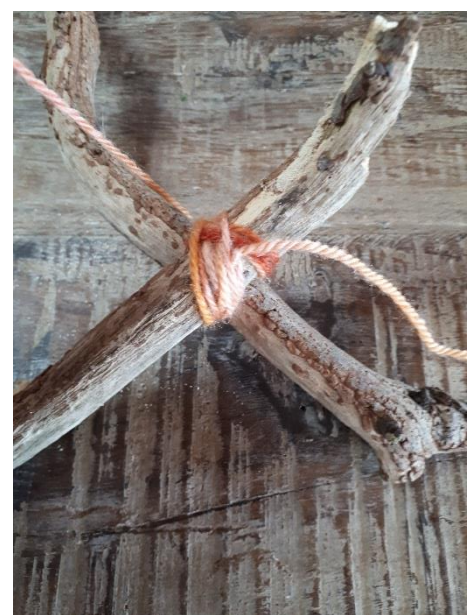
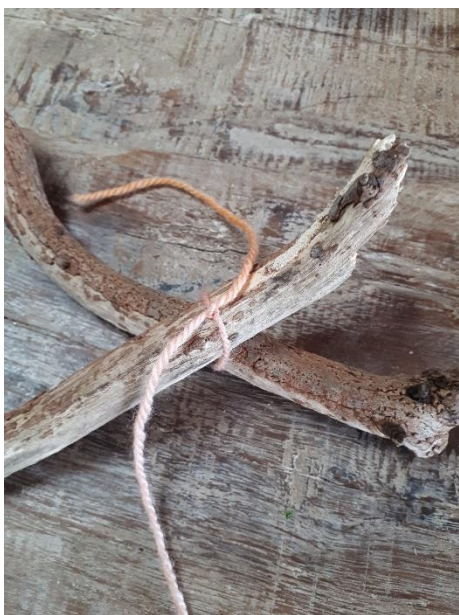
This is an activity I usually do with the children to deepen the images in the story of The Autumn Blanket. I suggest sharing this story with your children over a week before beginning the activity. It is a lovely nature based activity that develops fine motor skills and can be done very simply and in a naïve way.

To begin ask your children to find some good strong sticks. You may like to go on a walk in your area to find these. Encourage your child to explore making some shapes with the sticks. You can talk about different shapes and their properties as an additional learning experience if you choose. A shape with right angles works best for this activity like; triangles, squares and rectangles. Help your child to form one of these shapes if they find it difficult. You could do this by making a stick shape yourself and seeing if they can copy it with their sticks.



Once your sticks are chosen your child can use some sandpaper to smooth them out and then polish them with some beeswax.

Next step is to tie the sticks together at each point where they meet to make a frame. It helps to leave extra thread so you can continue winding the long end around and about several times to make your join strong and then tie off.



Repeat this process on each corner/join until your frame is complete and strong enough to hold up. Tie one end of a ball of wool, small enough to fit in your child's hand, to one corner of the frame, then allow your child to wrap the wool all around the entire frame, changing direction and going over and over, looping it between the ends and catching it in various places on the sticks until all the wool is used and you have something that looks like a web. In the kinder, I usually have a frame ready and as I tell the story I slowly weave my own ball of wool around my frame so the children can see the process.



Now you can go on a treasure hunt to find nature objects, just as in the story of the autumn blanket to weave into your frame. The children can practice their fine motor skills to push grasses, leaves, pine needles, and anything else you can find, in between the threads.



I like to give the children a little piece of wool fleece to represent the 'white fluffy clouds' from the story. You might find something at home that could represent this also.

At the very end, when the story is told and all the nature objects are woven into the 'blanket' I like to sprinkle some little tiny sparkly stars over it. You can cut out some stars from tin foil or paper to use at home if you like. The completed blankets look lovely sitting on the window so the light can shine through them.



Have fun and email me if you have any questions. We would love some photos of your finished blankets too so please send pictures if you can! 😊

