



THE HONEYCOMB HYPOTHESIS

Designing Environments

The Honeycomb Hypothesis uses the honeybee and its behavior movements to help us understand how young children learn.



USING PINECONES FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO PRACTICE

Pinecones are beautiful natural elements and, therefore, offer a perfect medium for young children's play. They offer a direct connection to nature and are enticing because of their visual and kinesthetic textures. There are so many different kinds of pinecones, so they offer a variety of interesting sensorial experiences for children to explore. Because texture is a gentle teacher, pinecones are perfect for learning experiences. And the best part about pinecones is that they are perfectly free. Simply look about your community for evergreen trees, which produce cones called conifers. Across the United States, there are more 600 species of conifers including pines, firs, and spruce. Each type of conifer is different—from its size, shape, and texture.

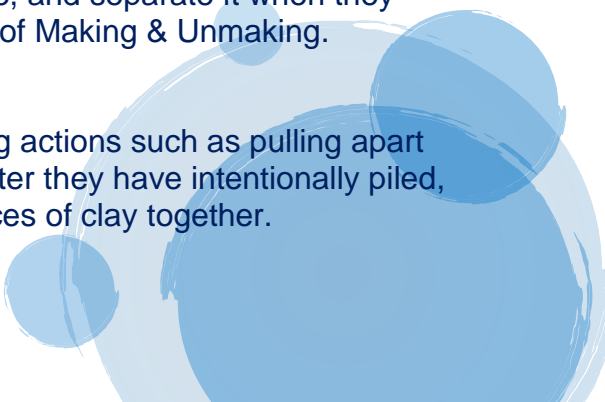
Playing with pine offers many opportunities to practice the Patterns of Play

Turning & Stopping

Using a sloped piece of wood (ramp) or a p, encourage children to roll pinecones Children roll, pat, and construct the clay only to smash, poke, and separate it when they practice the Pattern of Play of Making & Unmaking.

Attaching & Detaching

Children repeat transforming actions such as pulling apart and undoing immediately after they have intentionally piled, stacked, and joined the pieces of clay together.



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A Fun Idea: Gather some large-sized pinecones. Fill three bowls with different colors of Tempera paint. Invite children to drop the pinecones into the containers of paint and gently shake. Then transfer the pinecones to a box top. Help children shake the box so the pinecones roll and create interesting marks on the lid.

Once the pinecones dry, children can make pretty pinecone presents. Bits and pieces of yarn or rattan, ribbons, and laces wrapped on pinecones make intriguing works of art. Place the pinecones alongside a basket filled with wrapping materials and watch the beautiful creations begin. Give the lovely child-created pinecones back to the trees with a gifting ceremony by placing the wrapped pinecones in the tree's limbs or at its base.

