



## Natural Portraits

*Natural materials don't inhibit those children who would otherwise protest: 'but I can't draw!'*

*Gather the group together. Discuss what portraits are, and then say that they are going to make self portraits - but the only problem is - you have forgotten pens, paper and paintbrushes. What can you do? The children will probably leap to suggest they can use the natural materials around them!*

*Let the children decide if they want to design individually or in twos or small groups. This will vary with age and confidence.*

*Talk about the features of a face they may need to include - ears, eyes, nose, hair etc and encourage or suggest some useful materials like fluffy seeds for eyebrows for example.*

*Set some environmentally aware ground rules in terms of parts of plants to collect/ leave alone. Otherwise agree only to collect plentiful loose materials such as fallen leaves/grasses.*

*Talk about framing their portraits - what could they use? Sticks or twigs for example, of equal lengths.*

*Discuss contrasting backgrounds - so the image is clear rather than blending in with the background - and how they may chose the backdrop to display the image.*

*Let them spend time gathering materials and making self portraits. Are the faces happy or sad?*

*Alternatively, they could design portraits of other beings - monsters/ wood spirits - let them decide the theme.*