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| A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated | STEM COBB:  **Inspired By Nature:** Leaf Impressions  Kindergarten STEM Resource from Cobb County Schools  Lesson 1 |
| This week we will encourage our young learners to explore the natural world by collecting, sorting and making observations about leaves.  In Kindergarten, students are asked to construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants can be grouped according to their features, (SKL2).  They are also asked to count the numbers of objects in each category and sort the categories by count, (MGSEK.MD.3). | |
| Materials | |
| Markers Paper Crayons | |
| Digital Resources | |
| * Book – ***Plants Can’t Sit Still*** - <https://youtu.be/NFHSSq7cmy4> * Online Game – **Leaf Sorting** - <http://www.meddybemps.com/Leaves/SortByShape.html> * Video - **Leaf Impressions** - <https://youtu.be/L55yyknsU3M> | |
| Instructions | |
| 1. Start by reading a book about leaves. We like Plants Can’t Sit Still by Rebecca Hirsch. You can watch this book online <https://youtu.be/NFHSSq7cmy4>. 2. Next give your child a little screen time to play some leaf sorting games at <http://www.meddybemps.com/Leaves/SortByShape.html>. 3. Now that we've explored counting and sorting leaves online, let's go outside and collect our own leaves.  Let's try to find at least 10 different leaves to count and sort.  **Safety Note: Familiarize yourself with poison ivy (**<https://g.co/kgs/RZZRT9>) **prior to touching any leaves.** ​ While outside, have your child use a digital device to take a photo of a couple of leaves they like.​   Bring the leaves inside or on the porch.  Encourage your child to sort the leaves into two different groups by:    * + color - green & not green      + shape - round & not round, pointed & not pointed or skinny & not skinny      + size – big & not big or smaller than my hand & not smaller than my hand      + texture - fuzzy & not fuzzy, soft & not soft, or sharp & not sharp      + or any way your child can think of sorting   ​Make sure to count the number of leaves in each group.  You can even record these data if you like.     1. Finally, let's create some artwork using our favorite leaves.  We're going to explore the best techniques to create leaf rubbings.    1. **Ask** your child how we can capture the shape and design of a leaf on paper using markers and crayons?    2. Allow them to **brainstorm** some ideas.    3. Next use their ideas to **create** leaf prints.    4. **Evaluate**: discuss what worked and what didn't work well.  Watch the video below to see how this artist does leaf rubbings.  Leaf Impressions video - <https://youtu.be/L55yyknsU3M>.    5. Can you **improve** your leaf rubbings/drawings? | |