Kids Explore!

Natural Love Notes

Use natural materials to send love to family and friends, near and far!

Materials (all optional)

- Rocks
- Leaves
- Lichen
- Cones
- Moss
- Shells
- Evergreen boughs

1. Gather some natural art materials of different colors, textures, shapes, and sizes. These can be things you have already collected (pretty rocks, shells, etc.) or items you find outside. You don't need to pick anything alive, just look for things that naturally end up on the ground in the winter.

2. Pick an open area on the ground in your yard or a park, a sidewalk, a driveway, or some other safe flat spot for your "canvas," the place you will create your natural love note. Your spot can be BIG if you've collected large items or small if your art materials are tiny. A bright green patch of grass or moss, the top of a big flat rock, pebbles on the ground, or a sandbox will all work.

3. Now arrange your natural art materials into the outline or filled shape of a heart. Choose items that contrast with your background so your heart really stands out. *Hint: If you need help making a heart shape, cut one out of paper first, put it on your work surface, and build around it. Remove it when you're finished.*

4. Once you've created your heart, take a picture and email it or send it via social media to a friend or family member that you can't visit in person. You can also print it out and mail it as a card.

5. For some surprise fun, sneak into a friend or family member's yard when they're not looking, build your heart, and wait for them to find their special valentine. *Be sure to give them a hint that it's there to be sure they don't miss it!*

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