10. ADDER CROWNS

INTRODUCTION

This is a nice simple and fairly quick activity for public events where families will be present, such as at a show or fete. It avoids the use of plastic and can be adapted to the seasons – just use whatever plant material you can find. It is also very inexpensive and kids love it.

MATERIALS:

- White or cream card (A4), cut into 3cm wide strips
- Paper trimmer (optional)
- Scissors
- Stapler and staples
- Adder template sheet printed out (see last page of activity)
- Selection of seasonal, non-toxic leaves and flowers
- Potatoes, sharp knife and chopping board
- Paint (acrylic or poster paint)
- Paper plate for paint

DO IT!

1. Start by stapling the ends of two strips of card together and turn them over, with the ends of the staples facing upwards.

2. Cut out an adder from a template sheet. Staple this to the card strips, covering up the ends of the staples.
Cut a potato in half and cut a diamond shape into each half. This will be used to make a diamond-shaped print on the adders’ back.

Put some paint on the paper plate (brown and black for female and male adders). Ask participants to dip their potato into the paint of their choice, then print diamonds along the back of their adder.

Measure the head size of the participant and staple the crown together at the back to give a snug fit. Try to have the ends of the staples on the outside of the crown.

Participants can then decorate their crowns with seasonal vegetation. This can be pushed through gaps behind the adder and stapled over the front of it. Trim the lower ends of the plants.

This activity works particularly well as an autumn craft – collect up an array of autumn leaves in a mixture of colours! Great to talk to people about how adders are heading into hibernation.
Template for adder crowns – print onto card or thick paper