



Willow Crowns

Weeping willow are common trees in backyards across Michigan, they have pliable branches, and they also shed these small branches and twigs frequently, making them the perfect tree for this fun nature craft!

Materials:

- A few small weeping willow branches/twigs (these should be golden yellow in color). Grape vines can be used if no weeping willow are available.
- Other bits of nature (flowers, weeds, leaves, etc.)
- Scissors or garden clippers

How-To:

1. Gather your supplies. Try to use willow branches that have fallen on the ground so you don't have to harvest any from the plant, and pick nonnative weeds like dandelions or cultivated flowers over native wildflowers or plants. This is a good opportunity to talk about sustainable harvesting and the difference between native and nonnative with your child!
2. Measure your child's head with your willow twigs, then weave a circle out of the twigs by twisting and intertwining the willow twigs. Tuck the ends in and snip off any astray pieces with the scissors.
3. Help your child decorate their crown by weaving the decorations into the willow circle.
4. Time for your child to wear the crown and see what sort of imaginative play it sparks!

