



A Book to Share!

A beautiful book to sit outside in the shade and share is 'Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature' by Joyce Sidman

Outdoor Art Ideas – Spirals and Snails!



Huge Spirals!

Take a snail shell as inspiration and create some huge spirals. You could use large pieces of paper and felt tips or chalks on the playground. Start small in the centre using tiny wrist movements and carry on until using your whole arm to create the outer spirals. Build up your creation by using different colours following the same spiral shape.

Collaborative Art Make a Spiral Mobile

Give each child in your group a paper plate. Allow them the freedom to decorate it however they choose although the brighter the better! Once they are decorated cut the plates in a spiral from the outside in. Then hang them altogether. I found a large stick on our school grounds to attach ours to and then hung from the ceiling – patterned side down. They look very striking!

Lots of Spirals!

This can be done on paper with felt tips or on the playground with chalk. If using the playground I find it works best if children draw themselves a frame to work within. Fill your space with swirls then try and fill the gaps with swirl parts so it looks like they are overlapping. This can be quite tricky for younger children to get to grips with but once they master it they can't stop!

Henri Matisse – The Snail

One of Matisse's later works – the Snail (1953) is ideal to study with younger children. Draw a spiral then using coloured paper shapes follow the concentric pattern. If there is no breeze you could take your collage materials outside to create your own interpretations.



Observational Drawing

Study a snail – look carefully at its shape, textures and little details. Have a go at drawing what you see. Can you shade to add depth to your picture? Give your drawing an extra touch by preparing some paper beforehand to draw on. I gave my paper watercolour stripes then used it to draw on once it had dried.

