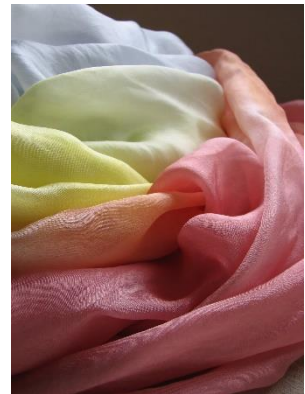


Waldorf Education Your Questions Answered

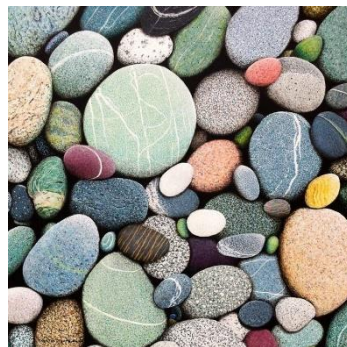
Why do we use natural materials?



When we are surrounded by and use natural materials we are held by nature. Nature is life giving and carries with it order, harmony and natural laws.



Look deeply at something wooden and you can see its grain revealing its growth and development. Stones carry with them a wisdom of the earth and its journey from the depths. Shells bring a memory of life in the ocean and reveals wonderful geometric shapes and patterns. They all contain the beautiful quality of life and bring this sense of life to us all.



Whenever possible teachers bring these natural materials to the children in their choice of toys and furnishings made of wood, cotton, silk and wool to create healthy, warm and nourishing environments.

Whilst this is not brought into the children's consciousness directly it places them in harmony with the natural world. Ideally this would develop into a greater appreciation of our planet and the importance of our place in the world and develop a capacity to bring healing and harmony to our planet, which it so greatly needs.

This is something you can also think about for your home environment and your choice of toys and playthings for the children. A useful source for inspiration and information is a wonderful book, which you may have come across before, called 'Simplicity Parenting' by Kim John Payne

