

## How to Make Flower Botanical Prints

### Supplies:

- White or light-colored paper (craft, construction, cardstock)
- Parchment paper
- Scissors
- Hammer or mallet
- Small bowl to collect scraps
- Assorted seasonal flowers and leaves (I used violets, bluebells, squills, dandelions, and buds from our backyard maple tree)
- Pens, markers, crayons, colored pencils, etc...

### Instructions:

1. Lay your construction paper on a flat and strong surface, like your driveway or patio. I did this activity indoors on our kitchen island, but made sure a thick sketch book was under the paper so I didn't damage our table with the hammer.
  - a. Note: Avoid using materials like cardboard that have corrugation or a lot of texture under the paper you are printing on, as this will show up in your final print. You can also place a piece of parchment paper under your construction paper to avoid color bleeding through.
2. Arrange your flowers and leaves on the construction paper.
3. Place a large piece of parchment paper over the flowers and leaves, being careful not to disturb your design.
4. With your hammer or mallet, pound gently but firmly on each flower and leaf (I definitely got my fingers a few times, so make sure this step is completed by an adult if you are doing this activity with kids!) Be a little more gentle with the flowers, as they mush easily. You will have to be more firm with the leaves.
  - a. Note: If you find that you are having trouble keeping the flowers and leaves in one place as you hammer, you can also do this one flower and leaf at a time and build on your design as you go.
5. Once you've extracted all the color, peel back the parchment paper and remaining flower or leaf.
  - a. This would likely be easier with a pair of tweezers, but I was able to gently scrape away any residual flower or leaf with the edge of a scrap piece of parchment paper and my fingernail.
6. Keep adding flowers and leaves until you are pleased with the overall design.
7. Add your own style! Use colored pencils, crayons, and markers to add more vibrant color, and pens to outline or add embellishments. You could even use watercolor paint to mimic the soft edges of the print. Have fun with it!