

This week why not make the most of the nice weather and have a go at some Water play activities

And don't worry about the fact you are just "playing" and not doing school work, Water Play is great for teaching lots of things including:

Personal, social and emotional development:

- To enjoy the experience of water play.
- To make choices and develop independence.
- To take turns, co-operate and share with one another.
- To be curious and interested.
- To have a positive approach to new experiences.
- To develop an awareness of safety.
- To select and use activities and resources independently.

Communication, language and literacy:

- To experiment and play with language and sounds.
- To develop language skills and extend vocabulary.
- To sing songs and rhymes about water and the world around them.
- To listen to and share stories with a watery theme.
- To begin to talk about and share experiences with others.
- To describe how things look, sound, taste, feel and smell.
- To use language to ask questions, give instructions.
- To talk about what is happening in pretend play.

Mathematical development:

- To show an interest in numbers and counting.
- To say and use some number names and number language spontaneously.
- To enjoy joining in with number rhymes and songs.
- To use mathematical language in play and willingly attempt to count.
- To begin to record numbers using marks on paper, pictures, tallies or numbers.
- To observe and use positional language.
- To begin to make comparisons of size, weight or capacity.
- To begin to use appropriate vocabulary for comparing measures.

Knowledge and understanding of the World:

- To have experience of and begin to use appropriate vocabulary.
- To investigate & explore water, equipment, materials & changes.
- To show curiosity, observe & manipulate objects.
- To describe simple features of objects & events.
- To explain what is happening and what will happen next.
- To begin to take part in simple practical investigations.
- To link cause & effect to their own experiences.
- To use a range of strategies to solve problems.
- To ask questions about why things happen & how things work.
- To represent features of the environment from songs, stories or rhymes in water play, e.g. river in 'Five Little Ducks'

Creative development:

- To act out experiences showing a range of feelings.
- To use their imagination - acting out familiar situations.
- To be creative & inventive - adding props, retelling or changing known stories.
- To investigate using water to change materials - creating environments & exploring different media or techniques.

Water play activities

Five Little Speckled Frogs:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSC-gHBU_d0

- Sing the song
- Make a list with the children of the things you will need to create the speckled frogs pool.
- Use washing up bowl or water tray to make a speckled frog habitat for the children to explore and play with. Make mud from potting compost & use grass or art straws to represent reeds. Introduce vocabulary such as pebbles, rocks, mud, reeds, swamp and also positional words. Talk to the children about what it would be like to be 'in the mud' 'on the log' 'under a rock' etc.
- Paint or make a collage picture of the rhyme. Use cut out frogs or finger puppets or plastic frogs for the children to move around the picture.
- Use the picture, water tray habitat or cloth/paper pool & log shapes to play a game. Make a dice or spinner with instructions, e.g. 'put 2 frogs on the log or 1 frog in the mud'

Five Little Ducks;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZw9veQ76fo>

- Sing the song and teach the children actions to accompany it.
- Make a picture to show where the ducks went, talk about the environmental features – hills, river, river bank, reeds, flowers, trees, hedges and positional language. Let the children paint, draw, decorate and cut out ducks to move around the picture.
- Use velcro or blu-tack to make labels – over the hills, across the river, under the bridge which the children can move around.
- Look at the video with the children and discuss what the ducks would see along the way, who they might meet, what food they would eat ? Talk about water safety.

Who Sank The Boat?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpFWuHSDftQ>

- If you have some plastic farm animals (including a sheep, pig, donkey, mouse, cow), try making a boat from re-cycled materials.
- Use a washing up bowl or even the bath and a variety of things to explore floating and sinking with the children. Look at some objects which float e.g. boats or plastic food trays, and add pebbles or other small objects to make them sink. Ask the children to say what will happen. Can they find other ways to sink the boats?
- Use a computer/Laptop/iPad and show your children pictures of different types of boats and discuss what they might carry and which could carry the heaviest load.
- Watch the story with your children and talk about what happened as each animal boarded the boat. Discuss 'balancing' Why do they think a tiny mouse sank the boat?
- Use the boats/animals to retell the story and explore different combinations of animals. What happens if they fill the boat? Put all the animals on one side or at one end?

Water play activities

Oil & Water: - fill small transparent bottles (sports water bottles are good) with various liquids, seal the lids with glue or tape, use water & glitter, water/food colouring, oil, oil & water. Let the children discuss and investigate the liquids.

Possible questions:

- What happens to the liquid when you tip the bottles? shake them?
- What do you think will happen if you put them into the water tray?

Ice or water balloons: - make sure this activity is carried out with adult supervision and ice is not handled straight from the freezer to avoid burns. Fill balloons with coloured water, glitter, sequins, freeze some and let the children explore the others in the sink/bath.

Possible questions:

- What does the water balloon feel like? look like?

- What do you think will happen when you put it in the water?
- Does the ice balloon look/feel the same?
- What do you think will happen to the ice balloon when you put it in the water?
- What will happen to each one if we leave them?
- Open one of the ice balloons & sprinkle salt onto the ice, discuss what happens with the children, drip food colouring onto it & watch the effect. Make 'Jack Frost's fingers' by filling plastic gloves with water. Let the children explore wearing different gloves in the water.

Pasta: Add uncooked, long spaghetti to enough water to cover it in the water tray. The spaghetti becomes flexible enough to bend and manipulate into lots of different shapes. Try adding pasta shapes and a little food colouring. Warn children about not trying to eat it! Add spoons, serving tongs, forks, spaghetti spoons, dishes, pans or plates and allow children to explore & experiment.

Possible questions:

- What happens when you try to bend dry spaghetti?
- What do you think will happen when? Does it float, sink, change colour?
- Why do you think the spaghetti becomes bendy/flexible?
- What might happen if we add warm water? food colouring? other pasta?
- What happens when you try to pick it up?
- What does it feel, smell, look like?
- Which tools work best to serve spaghetti?