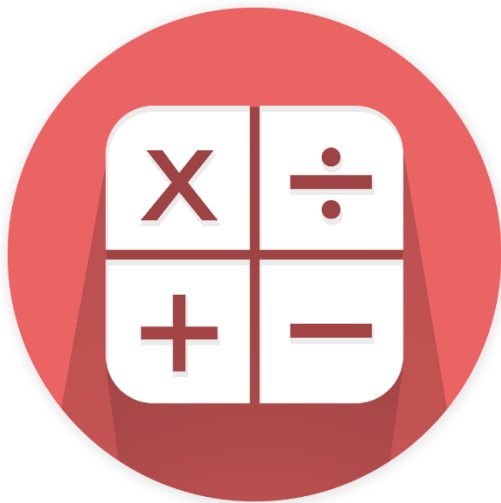


Essential Skills Service

Family Literacies

Little Book of Tasters



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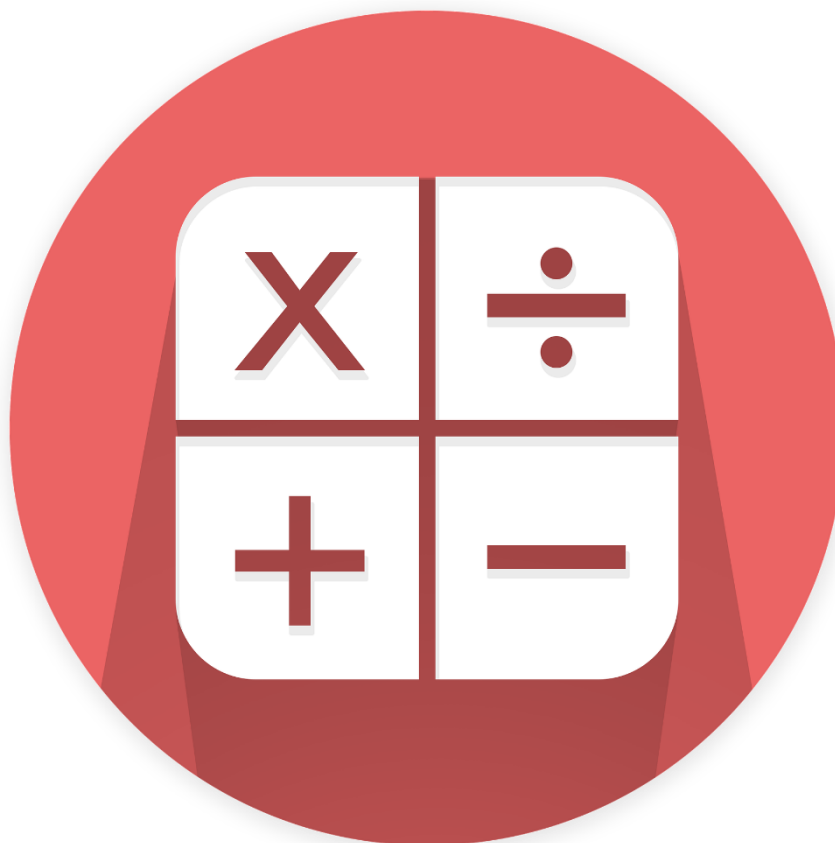
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Numeracy Activities



Time-bomb Game

This is an easy game which can be played with 2 or more players and will help to increase the player's numeracy, teambuilding and confidence.



What you need: Ball, 2 or more players

1. Players stand in a circle facing each other
2. The ball is now a bomb and once triggered will explode after 10 seconds
3. Everyone passes the ball across the circle to each other randomly
4. Once someone has dropped the ball, the "bomb" has been "triggered" and the full group start counting down from ten
5. Once you get to 0, the last person to touch the ball is out and they must sit down where they are.
6. Keep going until there is a winner.
7. You **MUST** throw the ball to someone and not outside of the circle to make them run for it. (That's cheating.)

Further Learning Opportunities

Numeracy - Make the game harder by counting down in even numbers, the 3 times tables, miss out numbers... etc.

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Make 10 Card Game

Using a pack of cards, see who can make the most values of the number 10.

This is a quick game you can play on your own or against a family member.

What you need: Pack of cards

1. Start by removing all the face cards (keep the aces to use as the number 1)
2. Shuffle a pack of cards and split the deck between two faced down.
3. Each player turn over their first four cards in front of them.
4. Using any combination, can you make the number 10 with your four cards?
If you can, gather them together and sit them to the side because that is one point! (Just the number 10 card counts too!)
5. Fill up your cards so you have another four cards in front of you.
6. If you cannot make a value of 10 with any combination of your four cards you may switch one to the bottom of your deck.
7. Keep going until you run out of cards or can no longer make a value of 10.
8. Add up your points at the end.



Further Learning opportunities

Numeracy - Make the game harder by looking for values to 20 or by using subtraction.

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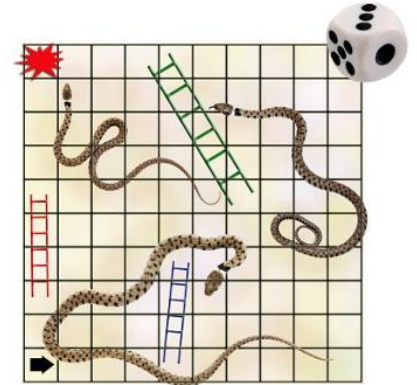
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Giant Snakes and Ladders

Make your own game of Snakes and Ladders except instead of counters, players move round the board.

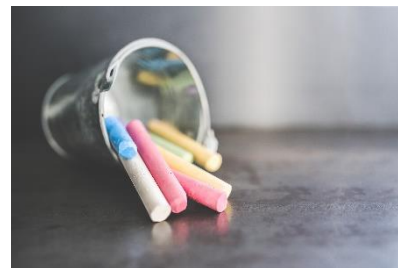
What you need: chalk, a dice

1. Draw a big snakes and ladders grid on a flat surface using chalk.
2. Play the normal way except children are the counters.
3. If you are playing indoors then simply draw the board on paper.



Further Learning opportunities

Make a smaller version and use your favourite toys as counters. What other board games can you make?

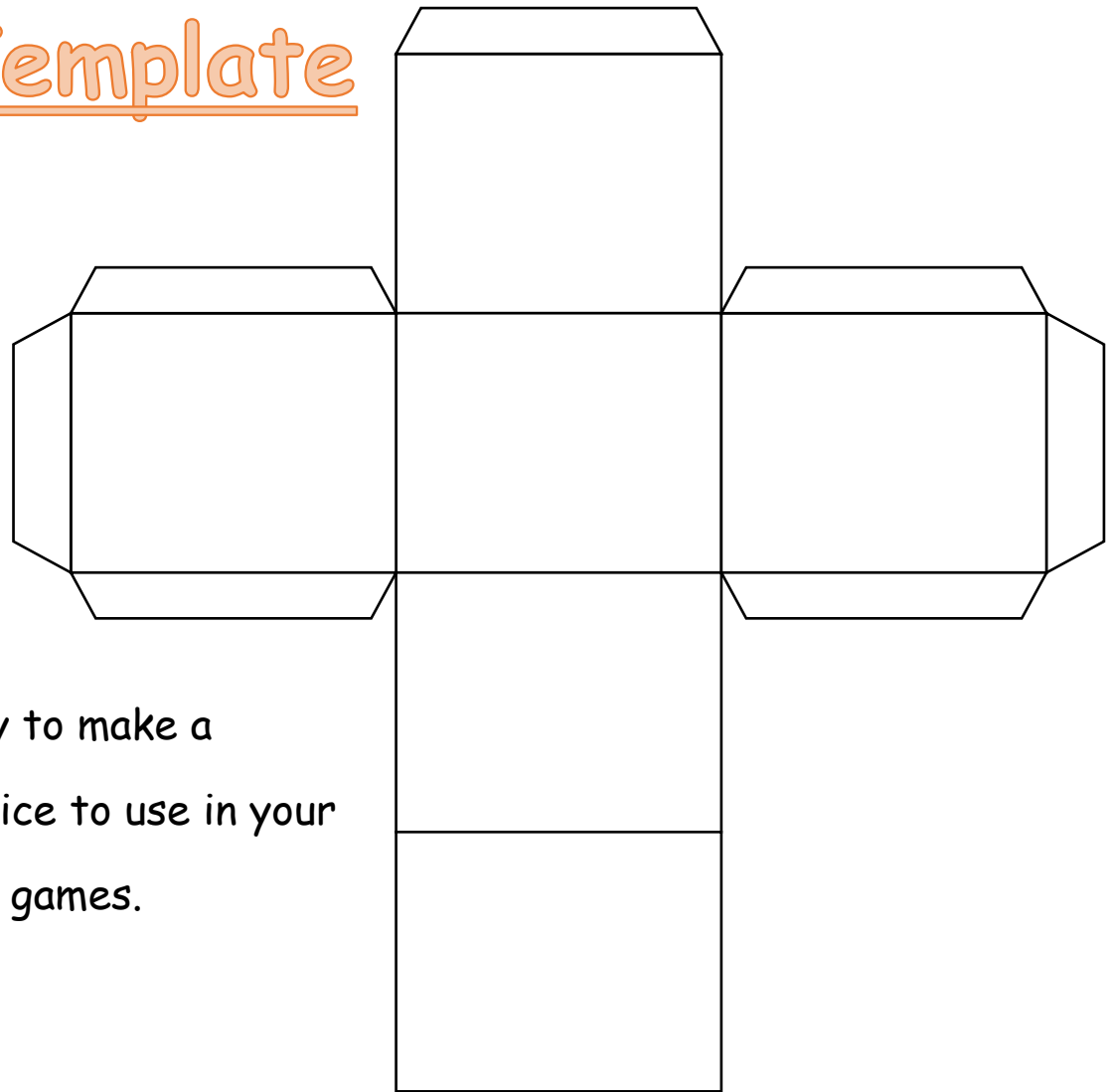


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Dice Template



Print or copy to make a
homemade dice to use in your
own learning games.

Cut and stick down all the sides to make a 3D dice.

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Home Cafe or Tuck Shop

Create your own house Café or Tuck shop menu to get your young people thinking about money. When they want a snack during the day, they must use their play money.

What you need: Paper, pens and some pretend money

Create a home-school menu by using paper and pens.

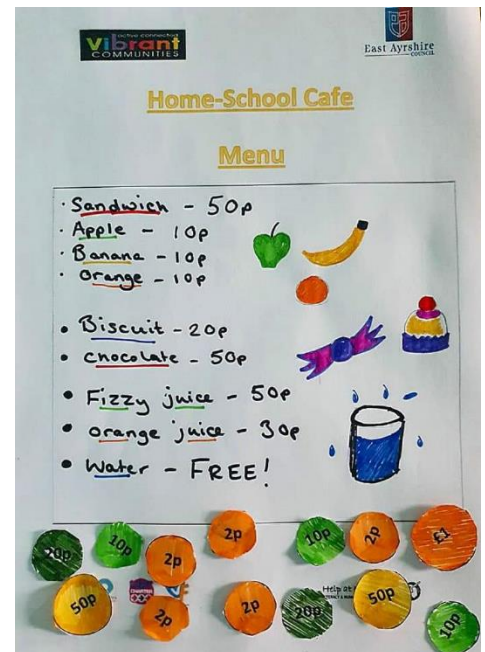
Example - Apple - 10p

Juice - 20p

Sweets - 50p

Water - Free ...etc.

Create paper money for your young people to use. Get your young people involved by having them draw the money and cutting them out!



Further Learning opportunities

Make this task more challenging by asking your young people to work out what change they should get back.

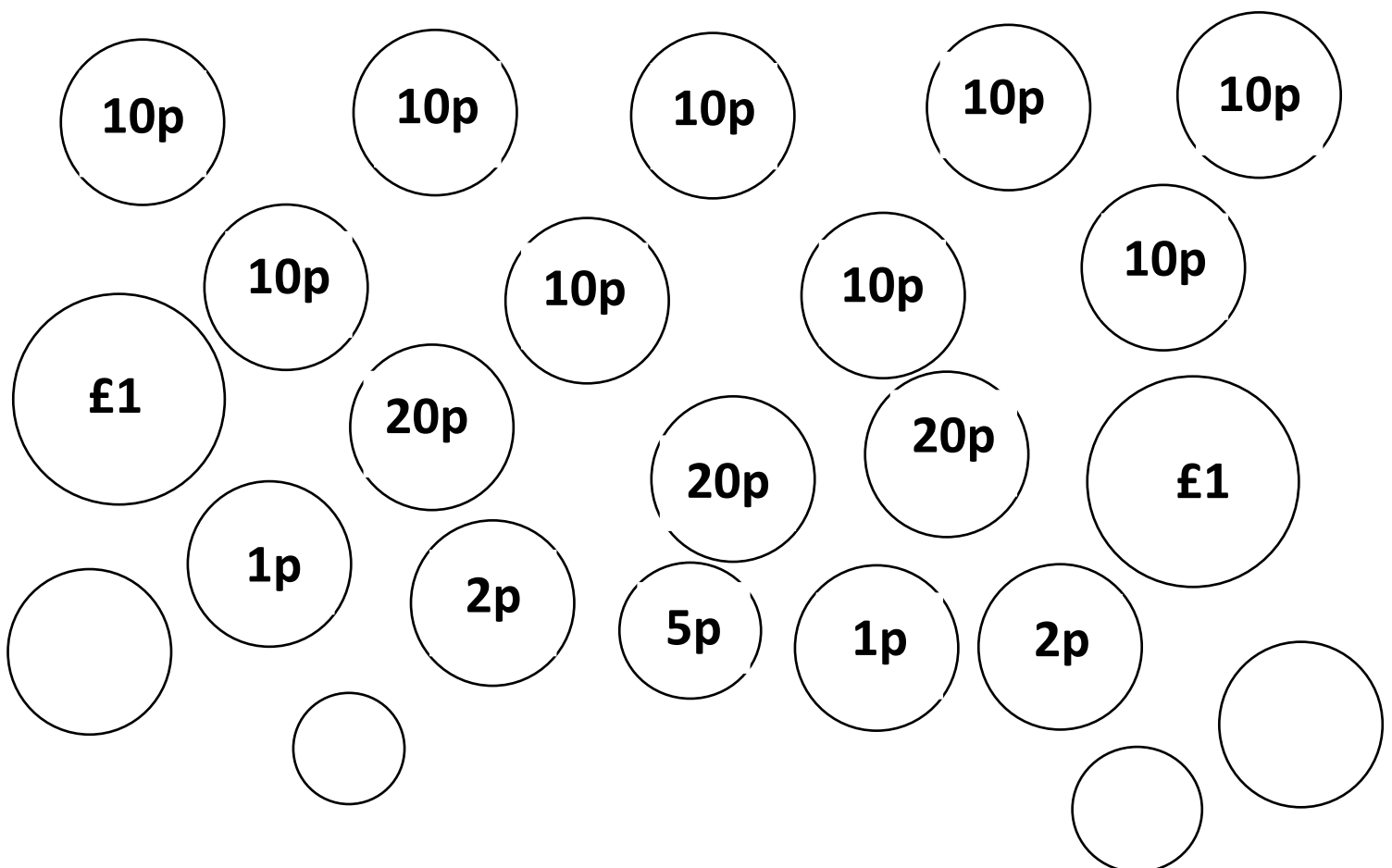
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Paper Money Template

Print or copy to make your own paper money to use in your own learning games.



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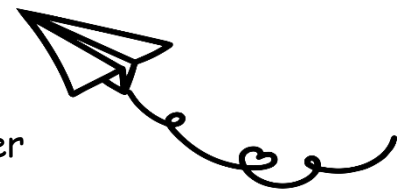
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Paper Aeroplane Races

Make your own paper aeroplanes and see whose can travel the furthest and whose is the fastest.

What you need: Paper, pens, measuring tape, stopwatch



1. Make a paper aeroplane and decorate it however you like.
2. Everyone takes a turn to throw theirs.
3. Using a measuring tape, see how far each plane flew
4. Afterwards pick a marker on the ground for you to aim for.
5. Using a stopwatch, measure how long it took for each aeroplane to reach that spot.

Further Learning opportunities

Older children can work out the speed of their aeroplane by using their findings and the mathematical formula $\text{Speed} = \text{Distance} / \text{Time}$

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Bingo!

Bingo is a game that kids love to play! Buy or make your own Bingo cards.

What you need: Bingo cards, pens, hat or bowl

1. Make some bingo cards on a 5x5 grid.
2. Write a number on each square.
3. Cut out a matching set of numbers and put them in a hat or a bowl.
4. Pull out a number and show it to the children.
5. Have them either colour in the number or cover it with a counter if it matches one of theirs.
6. Once they have a full house, they shout BINGO!



Further Learning opportunities

Make the game more challenging by making the numbers on the bingo cards maths sums instead. (eg "6 + 11 =" So they are waiting for the number 17 to be called)

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Literacy Activities



Alphabet Tick-Tack-Toe

This game is tic-tac-toe (X's and O's) with a twist!

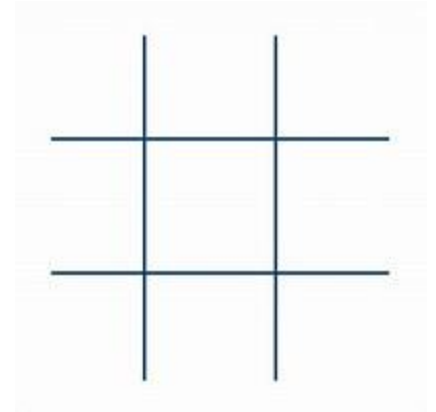
What you need: - Pens, paper, counters or buttons

Write different letters in the grid.

You have to think of a word that starts with one of the letters.

Once you have thought of a word, you say it and put your counter or button on the grid.

Similar to traditional tic-tac-toe- the first player with three markers in a row wins the game.



Further Learning opportunities

Practise spelling by writing the word down on a separate piece of paper.

For older children set a rule that the words need to have a minimum amount of letters (e.g. only words with 4 or more letters)

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Emoji Stories and Guessing Game

Children love emoji's! Use them to get them practicing their writing skills.

What you need - Keyboard with emoji's (phone or tablet), pens and paper.

Players take it in turns to write with emojis and to guess the meaning. It could be the title of a movie, a song, a country, anything they want, using only emojis

The other player must translate the emojis and write the translation down on paper.

If the general storyline is correct or the name/title is also guessed correctly, the guessing player scores a point.



Further Learning opportunities

You could also choose a few emoji's at random and then have your child try to write a short story using them as inspiration.

If your child doesn't want to write they can always type their answers into their mobile/tablet.

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Scavenger Hunt

Creating a scavenger hunt is a great way to get young people talking and involved while out on a walk.

What you need - Paper, pens and camera/smartphone (optional)

Write a scavenger hunt to take with you out on a walk. Talk to your child about what they have found.

For very young children you can simply draw a picture of what they have to try and find.

For older children, get them involved by asking them to take a picture of what they have found on their smartphone.

Further Learning opportunities

Get the young people to spell out the scavenger hunt items.

If you use a smartphone to take a picture of the items on the scavenger hunt, afterwards you could make a big collage of your pictures.



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Create a Time Capsule

Create a time capsule for your children to look back on in future years' time.

You will need - Paper, pencil, some form of scrapbook or old lunchbox, newspaper or magazine clippings.



1. In their own words write a letter to themselves. Write their age, who their friends are, their favourite TV programmes, video games, songs, books etc. Write about what is going on at the moment and what they are currently feeling.
2. Talk about the future. Write about what they want to be when they grow up and any things they are looking forward to in the near future.
3. Cut out newspaper articles they think will be important for their future self to read.
4. Draw a picture of themselves and their family as it is now.
5. Gather any photographs or small things like chocolate wrappers or magazine clippings that they like.

Then put them all together in a scrapbook or old lunchbox. Hide it away somewhere safe (such as the loft) so that you won't come across it for a few years.

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Stop the Bus Game

This is a fun game which gets you working on your writing skills as well as your vocabulary skills. You can play this game in teams or separately.

What you need - Paper, pencils

The aim of the game is to find one thing for each category starting with a certain letter.

Start by drawing out a table like the example below for each player.

Decide what categories you will be looking for (girls name, boys name, animal etc.) and write them in the top.



	Sport	Animal	Country/Place	Food or Drink	Clothes
T	Tennis	Turtle	Tunisia	Tuna	Trousers

You can either pick a letter yourself or ask a player to count through the alphabet in their head, when you say stop they shout out that letter.

Everyone then starts to quickly think of something for each category beginning with that letter and writes it down.

The player or team that finishes first shouts "Stop the Bus!" and everyone must put their pencils down.

Then work out points. 10 points if you have one no one has, 5 points if someone else also has your answer.

Further Learning opportunities

Make the game harder for older children by using categories such as "Something found in the kitchen", "Something made of metal", "Something made of glass" etc.

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Science Technology Engineering Maths (STEM) Activities



Marshmallow and Spaghetti Towers

See who can create the tallest tower using only spaghetti and marshmallows. This task is linked to STEM as young people must use their problem solving skills as well as their knowledge of 3D dimensional shapes.



What you need - Marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti

Using the marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti, test your problem solving skills to create tall towers which stand on their own. Think about what you need to do to overcome certain problems with your structure. Does it need a wider base? Stronger connecting spaghetti?

Can you recreate any famous structures that they might know?

Further Learning opportunities

For older children, try to create structures that can withstand a certain weight such as coaster.

After you have attempted this with spaghetti and marshmallows can they make a strong structure with just paper and sticky tape? Strong enough to hold a bundle of coins?

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Rain in a Glass

Help explain how the weather with this fun science experiment.

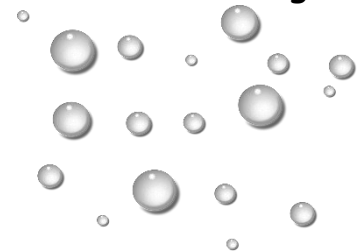
What you need: heat resistant glass jar, ceramic plate, hot water and 4 ice cubes

Start by pouring 2 inches of hot water into the jar (ask for help), then cover the jar with the ceramic plate, face up. Wait 3 minutes before continuing to the next step.

Then place the ice cubes onto the plate and... observe your homemade rain!

What is happening?

The cold plate causes the moisture in the warm air, which is inside the jar to condense and form water droplets. This is the same thing that happens in the atmosphere. Warm, moist air rises and meets colder air in the atmosphere. The water vapour condenses and forms precipitation that falls to the ground which is rain!



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Invisible Ink

Write secret messages with invisible ink like a secret agent!

What you need - white (unlit) wax candle or a white crayon, paper, watered down paint

First, write something on a piece of paper with the wax candle or white crayon. Then brush the paint over the paper to reveal the message! Explain that the wax will naturally resist the water based paint.



Write secret notes for friends to read who are "in the know" or create a secret scavenger hunt with "invisible clues" that they need to "de-code".

Further Learning opportunities

Older children can also complete this task (with help from an adult) with freshly squeezed juice from a lemon, mixed with a small amount of water and a hair dryer. Explain that the lemon juice is acidic which eats away at the paper and makes it weak. When you add a heat source like a hair dryer, the lemon juice burns before the rest of the paper. This makes it turn brown!



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Colour Changing Flowers

Learn about plants absorbing water with the cool science experiment.

What you need - White flowers (daisies will work but it may take longer), cups of water, food colouring.

Watch the white flowers change colour as they absorb the water!

Start by cutting the stems of each flower diagonally so they can absorb the water better.

Add some food colouring into the water. Place the stem in the water and leave for a few hours (daisies may take a day or two, if so change the water every 1-2 days)

The flowers will begin to change colour as they drink the water!



Further Learning opportunities

A bonus experiment you could try is to cut up the stem of the flower in half and place each part in a different colour of water. Watch as the petals change into two different colours.

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Learning through Play

Activities



Paper Obstacle Course

Create a paper obstacle course that players have to cross without breaking any paper.

What you need - toilet tissue or crepe paper, sticky tape

Tape lines of paper across a hallway or room.

Criss-cross the lines high and low, with space between them that young people can try to fit through.

See who can make it to the end without breaking any tissue paper.

Further Learning opportunities

Play this game outside with string!

Older children should try to complete the obstacle course by not touching any of the paper or string



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Stress Balloon People

Create your own stress balloon people to help discuss the topic of mindfulness with your young people. Plus, you can decorate them for a fun arts and crafts activity.

What you need - Balloons, flour (or rice/sand works too), pens and a funnel

Start by filling up your balloon with flour or sand, use a funnel to help.

Tie them shut, make sure they are tight!

Decorate them however you like, such as giving them faces!



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Super Soft Playdoh

Make your own super soft playdoh in just 5 minutes!

Please Note:

This playdough contains no preservatives and so will not last as long as other playdough. It will need to be thrown out after around four days. Don't worry just make more!



What you need - 2 cups of cornflour (500ml), 1 cup of hair conditioner (250 ml), 2 drops of food colouring.

Start by putting the cup of hair conditioner into a bowl.

Then add the two drops of food colouring and mix them together.

Add one cup of cornflour and mix together. Then add the last cup of cornflour to the mixture.

Continue to mix until it turns into a thick blob. Add more cornflour if the playdough is sticky

Further Learning opportunities

Numeracy - Next time measure out the ingredients using scales.

Creativity and oral language development - What fun things can you make?

Spatial awareness - experimenting with shapes and space. Can you make any 3D shapes.

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Contact Information

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East Ayrshire Council



Family Literacy

Reading | Writing | Numbers



ESSENTIAL SKILLS SERVICE

Please check out our blogs for further information and activities.

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