

# **TAPS Scotland** Focused assessment of scientific skills



Primary 1 Activity title: Topic: Body systems/Topical science Age 4-5 Forensic footprints

## Scientific skills focus

Carry out: Use their senses to acquire information.



## Curriculum link

I can identify my senses and use them to explore the world around me. SCN 0-12a

## **Assessment focus**

- Can children observe closely to describe the footprints?
- Can children compare the size of different footprints?

# **Activity** Today we are forensic scientists

Set up mystery footprints e.g. linked to a story or a missing item.

Invite the children to explore and create footprints of different sizes and/or using different media e.g. muddy wellies, painted footprints, water prints across the playground.

Collect footprints e.g. draw around water prints in chalk, cut around muddy or painted prints.

Compare the footprints, discussing size, shape and patterns.

Order the footprints in terms of size.

Challenge the children to find a match for the mystery prints and explain why they think they have found a match.



# Adapting the activity

**Support:** Provide a small selection of shoes and prints to match.

**Extension:** Measure the footprints with strips of paper or tape or simple rulers. What else can we tell from the footprints e.g. which direction were they going? Were they running, walking or tiptoeing?

Other ideas: Look for other evidence e.g. left items – what did the culprit leave behind, what

does this tell us about them? Link to and explore animal tracks.

# **Questions to support discussion**

- What can you tell me about these footprints?
- Which footprint is the biggest/smallest?
- Which footprints have patterns inside?
- Which footprints did you make? How can you tell?
- Who do you think left these footprints? Why?

## **Benchmark indicators**

Working towards: Children make footprints but do not yet look closely to identify their own or others' prints.

Achieved: Children look closely at the footprints e.g. notice patterns, can say which is smaller or bigger.

Possible ways to go further: Children may begin to measure the prints using non-standard or standard units.

 $\overline{\text{T3}}$  Teacher box 3 - use Q, discussion and observation. See TAPS pyramid for more egs.