

Celebrate maths through play

Have fun with maths through play with our range of different activities and ideas.

Learning aims

- Mathematical development
- Working together
- Communication and language.

Resources

Activity 1:

- Egg boxes
- Baskets or buckets for collecting autumn items in.

Activity 2:

- Card
- Glue
- Pens
- Laminator
- String and hole punch.

Activity 3:

- Tuff spot tray
- Coloured water
- Petals and bark
- Baking soda and effervescent tablets
- Pipettes, funnels, beakers, cylinders and jugs.

Activity outline

Activity 1: Scavenger hunt for numbered items

Use your egg box to write or draw autumn items - e.g. two petals, three leaves - on the top of each egg box section. Encourage the children to explore outside, find and count the items, and pop them in the box in the appropriate section. For younger children don't add the additional level of the counting.

Activity 2: Making number lines for outside

Draw numbers on pieces of card, laminate them and punch holes at the top to make them weatherproof. Then ask the children to count out different items for each number and stick them onto the card with glue – e.g. one leaf, two sticks. Once all the displays are ready and items have dried, ask the children to thread them in order onto the string and display them outside. You may choose to attach them on a fence or display them differently, but whatever form you choose allow the children to pick the numbers up, move them around and reorder them.

Activity 3: Potions lab

Set up a tuff spot tray with a variety of different liquids or colours and measuring items, and allow children to explore and investigate - such as adding different amounts of water to the cylinders, then add the baking soda and effervescent tablets to the water. What do the children think will happen? What about adding bark or petals? Ask the children to predict and estimate.

Working with Babies

For your babies and toddlers, mathematical development is all about sensory play, exploring different materials and understanding items are still there when they are hiding. So for your babies think about lots of sensory play, treasure baskets and hide and seek games!