

## SEND: lots of socks

Support children to develop maths skills and explore different textures with this 'lots of socks' activity.

Hosting a World Down Syndrome 'lots of socks' Day is a great way to raise awareness of Down Syndrome.

### Learning aims

- To develop maths skills through pattern matching and ordering
- To explore different textures
- To talk about experiences and introduce ideas about diversity.



### Resources

- A variety of different pairs of socks of different colours, patterns, materials, sizes etc.
- One box per small group of children
- Role-play washing machine (optional)
- Teddies/dolls.

### Activity outline

- Put all the socks in the box (or a role-play washing machine if you have one in your setting)
- Encourage children to match socks of the same colour/pattern
- Sort into pairs
- Sort socks by size; short/long; small/big
- Support children to use mathematical language
- Encourage children to use their senses and language skills to explore and describe the feeling of the materials, for example, soft
- Talk about the type of materials the socks are made from
- Put the box of socks in the role-play area along with the soft toys, model putting them onto the teddies etc.

Ask children (and staff!) to wear brightly coloured socks, long/short socks, printed/patterned socks, one sock, even three socks to represent the extra chromosome present in children with Down Syndrome. Why not encourage parents to join in too!

## Extending the activity

- Add a variety of different coloured/patterned/textured materials to a treasure basket for babies to explore
- Add different colour socks throughout the role-play area and other areas in the setting to extend play and ideas
- Choose a story to support children's understanding of diversity.

## Working with babies

Add a variety of different coloured, patterned and textured materials to a treasure basket for babies to explore.