

Cloud shapes

Make the most of the bright spring sunshine and clouds to explore our natural world and encourage children to use their imaginations.

Learning aims

- **Characteristics of effective learning – thinking**
Encourage children to use their imagination, have ideas and make links and notice patterns in their experience
- **Mathematics – shape, space and measure**
Show awareness of similarities of shapes in the environment
- **Understanding the world**
Notice detailed features of objects in their environment
Comment and ask questions about aspects of their familiar world such as the place where they live or the natural world
Talk about some of the things they have observed such as plants, animals, natural and found objects
- **Expressive arts and design**
Pretend that one object represents another.



Resources

- A cloudy day with bright sunshine!
- Paper, pencils, pens and clipboard if the children would like to draw the clouds
- Camera.

Activity Outline

- Take the children outside and lie down on the ground together on your backs, looking up into the sky (you may need a rug or floor covering to lie on)
- Ask the children to look up into the sky. What can they see?
- Talk to the children about the clouds, their shapes and their movement. How do they think clouds are made? Where are they travelling to? How are they moving? Why are they white?
- Model to the children imagining what a cloud might be e.g. “Oh look at that cloud, I think that looks like a fierce dragon breathing fire” etc.
- Encourage the children to imagine what other clouds look like
- Provide the children with clipboards to record what they see
- Take photographs of the clouds and record what the children said they looked like. Print out the photos and add speech bubbles with the children’s words
- Babies and toddlers will enjoy cloud watching too – they may not lay down for very long but if adults are also lying down with them, pointing and talking about what they see and singing songs, they are more likely to stay for longer. Could you make up a cloud song using a familiar tune?

Extending the activity

- Use the internet to research different cloud types and how they are made. Watch videos about clouds - there are lots on YouTube, such as this
- Observe and follow the children’s interests. This activity may extend into storytelling or role play as the children re-enact the imaginary cloud shapes and stories they have created - provide props as necessary.

Special Considerations

Make sure the children do not look directly at the sun; you may want to encourage children to wear sunglasses if it is a very bright day.