



Water – Water calms and stimulates your senses. The activities will give you lots of opportunities to talk together while you have fun.

Main Activity – Design and build a “water park.” A bowl of water and a measuring jug will do: make yours as simple as you like. Find a place where you can safely and easily play with water. Check with an adult before you do these activities - they need to keep an eye on you when you play in and around water and slippery surfaces.

Outdoors - Do you have a tap or hose outside? If not, do you have a place you could transport bowls or buckets of water to? Find something to hold the water, e.g. paddling pool, plastic bowl or a large pan. If you have a tarpaulin or big piece of plastic you could wrap it around a few pool noodles to form a shallow pond.

Indoors - Use the bath, shower or sink. You could also put towels on the floor and put a plastic bowl or pan in the middle.

Collect Tools:

- Cups and containers of all shapes and sizes;
- Fun kitchen stuff (funnels, colanders, measuring jugs, etc.)
- Cloths, sponges, or other items that soak up water;
- An apron, raincoat or a change of clothes, if you prefer to stay dry.



Then, open your water park! Do a countdown and, “Hurray!” as you turn on the tap or pour the first bucket of water into your set up. Once the water is in, pop in a tool or two, and enjoy splashing, scooping, pouring and exploring. Introduce new materials over time, so you have plenty of chance to explore each new thing.

Wonder about things together, either by saying them out loud or just by trying them.

- How does the water feel on your skin?
- What sound does the water make if we pour it on different things?
- How does a cloth feel when it’s dry? How about when it’s wet?

Ideas for Independent Extension Activities

- If it’s cold, you could make ice outside. If not, find some treasures (flowers, small pine cones, leaves or little figures or toys) and an ice-cube or muffin tray. Freeze the toys and treasures inside the ice. Experiment with colour by adding a drop of food dye. After they are frozen, try floating them or try to free them (warm water, hammering).



- If it's raining and there are puddles, enjoy the stomping.
- Get busy with cloths and sponges.. Ask if you can wash the car, the windows or any surface you can reach. Indoors, you could wash your toys.



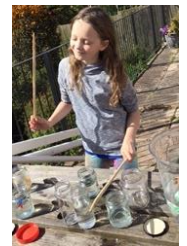
- Paint with water! You could make natural brushes from pine twigs or grasses wrapped around sticks with string or an elastic band.
- Turn rocks into frogs using a marker pen. Create watery homes and habitats for your frogs in the bathtub, sink or bowl. Think about what your frogs are doing and feeling. Learn about endangered frogs and look for frogspawn and tadpoles, if you can get to a park.



- Build a water park for your rock frogs or other small toys. Cut the bottom off of a recycled plastic container. Find funnels, tinfoil or anything that can channel water. Use tape to link them together to make water slides.

- Explore floating and sinking. Explore what happens when you put different objects into water. Tell someone what you notice and what you think it means to float and sink.

- Make a xylophone! Put out some jars, a jug of water and some spoons. Bang on the empty jars then pour a little water into one of them. Bang again, and notice the difference? If you have a few jars, can you play a tune?



- Make chalk paint by crushing chalk in water – use a muffin tray and make different colours that you can then try mixing together. Try dipping sticks of chalk into water before using them.

- Pour some oil into a glass. Partially fill another with water. What do you notice about the oil and the water? What do you think will happen if you put them together? Try pouring some of each into a third glass. What do you notice? Make predictions and test what happens with other liquids like syrup, honey, vinegar or whatever else you've got to hand.

- Make sensory or "calming" jars. Fill a clear bottle or jar with water, oil or dishwashing liquid and a mix of small natural items. Fasten the lid and enjoy!

From Mrs Horscroft

P.S. We'd love to see your ideas and creations. Please take a picture and post to our school's twitter feed.

(Activities adapted from the Tinkergarten website)

