

Indoor activity

Bean bag toss

This game is simple to set up, easy to play, lots of moving, and learning that can be easily adjusted to be ideal for each child! It can easily be adapted for shapes, letters, colours and many other learning topics.

You will need **bean bags, tape and paper or large post-it notes** and **pens**. If you don't have a bean bag, get creative! Perhaps a pair of clean socks would do the trick.

- Write the numbers one to five on small squares of paper. You can add dots to each paper to match the written numbers. For beginning readers, you could also add in the spelled-out number words.
- Tape one number to each stair.
- Hand your child their bean bag and ask them to hit the numbers.
- Once they have got the hang of it, add a challenging twist. Call out a number and ask your child to try and hit that number with the beanbag.
- Every time you walk up the stairs to collect the beanbags, count the steps together: one, two, three, four, five.



EYFS Links:

Moving and handling

- Mounts stairs, steps or climbing equipment using alternate feet.
- Walks downstairs, two feet to each step while carrying a small object.

Numbers

- Recites numbers in order to 10.
- Recognise some numerals of personal significance.
- Recognises numerals 1 to 5.
- Shows curiosity about numbers by offering comments or asking questions.

Freezy ice cream dough

Another of the children's favourite role-playing activities involves ice cream. We are always being asked if we would like an ice cream even when it is freezing outside! This activity adds a physical element to this. It does take a little time to prepare but the versatility of it makes it worthwhile.

You will need **1 cup cornflour, ½ cup hair conditioner, strawberry/vanilla/mint/chocolate flavouring, pink/green/brown food colouring or paint, pretend ice cream cones** and an **ice cream scoop**.



- Mix the cornflour and conditioner in a bowl using a spoon until well combined.
- Add a few drops of flavouring and food colouring/paint to create an ice cream dough.
- Knead well until soft and stretchy, and no longer sticky.
- Repeat for each flavour.
- Set in the fridge for an hour so that it is really cold when it's time to play.

Play ice cream shops! Set out your ice cream cones, an ice cream scoop and all the freezy ice cream doughs. To make extra special, put the ice cream in real ice-cream tubs. To extend this activity, use terminology related to money and price. You could ask your child to write a price list to practise writing their numbers and put pretend or real money in to a till.

EYFS Links:

Making relationships

- Can play in a group, extending and elaborating play ideas, e.g. building up a role-play activity with other children.
- Initiates play, offering cues to peers to join them.
- Keeps play going by responding to what others are saying or doing.
- Demonstrates friendly behaviour, initiating conversations and forming good relationships with peers and familiar adults.

Speaking

- Beginning to use more complex sentences to link thoughts (e.g. using and, because).
- Uses intonation, rhythm and phrasing to make the meaning clear to others.
- Uses talk to connect ideas, explain what is happening and anticipate what might happen next, recall and relive past experiences.

Shape, space, measure

- Beginning to use everyday language related to money.

Being imaginative

- Engages in imaginative role-play based on own first-hand experiences.

Outdoor activity

Texture Treasure Hunt

Sometimes the best resources are the already there. Looking for different textures when outside provides many links to different areas of the EYFS. By encouraging your child to look for different textures, their observational skills are increased. By describing what they have found repeatedly using new vocabulary, their breadth of language can be improved. The stone that was once a big grey stone by our home, is now a gigantic smooth charcoal grey stone, all by just noticing and talking about it.

You will need a **safe outdoor environment, clipboard, paper, pencils** and a **digital camera**.



- Draw textures onto sheets of paper and attach to a clipboard with pencils. Alternatively, just grab a camera instead.
- Go outside and simply shout out 'who can find something bumpy/soft/shiny/rough?'
- Get your child to run to find something and feel it.
- Alternatively, go on a treasure hunt and check off the items as you find them.
- Collect the items, take photos and make a texture book!

EYFS links:

Understanding

- Responds to simple instructions, e.g. to get or put away an object.

Speaking

- Beginning to use more complex sentences to link thoughts (e.g. using and, because).
- Uses talk to connect ideas, explain what is happening and anticipate what might happen next, recall and relive past experiences.
- Uses vocabulary focused on objects and people that are of particular importance to them.
- Builds up vocabulary that reflects the breadth of their experiences.
- Extends vocabulary, especially by grouping and naming, exploring the meaning and sounds of new words.

Technology

- Shows an interest in technological toys with knobs or pulleys, or real objects such as cameras or mobile phones.

Exploring and using media and materials

- Beginning to be interested in and describe the texture of things.