

Wet weather activities



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Wet weather activities



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Introduction

Going outside should not be put off because of wet weather. If the children are sensibly dressed they will still enjoy being outdoors but make the most of sheltered areas.

It is a good idea, though, to have a bank of activities available which might be useful if they can't get out to run around outdoors or if the weather really is dreadful and you need an alternative to TV and screens.

The activities in this booklet require some planning and preparation but once you have all the resources available and have tested them a couple of times, they will no doubt become old favourites!



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Scarecrow making

Resources required

Timber frame, old clothes, string, paper plates/card, felt tips, stapler, lots of straw

Space required

Small farm shed or covered area

Instructions

Pre activity: attach timber arms (about 2feet long) to body (about 5 feet) with screws/nails (ensure no sharp points that might cause injury).

Children to stuff straw, shredded paper or other materials available into clothes and 'dress' scarecrow. Make face with paper plate/card, staple to timber frame (Adult activity!) Think of name, compose rap/poem/organise fashion show/make up a scarecrow story etc.

Suggested by

David Thompson farmer

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Objects Consequences

Resources required

A selection of objects with which the children are unfamiliar. These could be old pieces of equipment, things picked up in charity shops in the past – old coins, horse shoes, buckles etc.

Space required

Just a table

Instructions

Each child picks an object

How do you think it was made?

What is it made from?

Is it damaged or worn away?

How old do you think it is?

What do you think your object was used for?

Are similar objects in use today?

Who do you think might have used it?

Do you think it would have been used every day?

Do you think it is valuable?

The children then start to construct a story about the object. It might help if a parent sets the scene and then the child continues the story – a bit like consequences

Comments

Start collecting interesting objects from around the house so you have them to hand!

Suggested by

Meg Hart

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“Fibs, Lies and Tall Tales”

Resources required A selection of objects or natural materials that you have assembled from around the house and garden.

Instructions Each child chooses an item (or finds their own). They then make up the biggest fib or whopping lie relating to that object. (Stress that telling lies is not usually a good thing to do, but when you are making up a fictional story then it's OK.)

You may have to give an example *“This piece of horse harness was found in the field and came from Dick Turpin’s horse Black Bess. He lost it when he was galloping away after robbing the stage coach”*

Each child tells their tale to the adults and any other children.

If you are in touch with other families via Zoom, FaceTime, Skype etc you could pool ideas and have a bigger group of children involved!

Comments Start collecting interesting objects so you have them to hand.

Suggested by Bobbie Harvey

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Quick Quizzes

Resources required

Pre prepared quiz questions (see ideas below)
Optional items to illustrate quiz questions
Optional photocopied quiz sheets

Instructions

2 ideas for quizzes:

True or False, interweave some funny questions such as 'A sheep's coat is made of feathers -true or false?'

Quiz question examples:

Which of the following is made from wheat? Bread, Yogurt, Eggs

Which of the following is not made from barley? Vinegar, Crisps, Beer

Comments

Adjust the level of questions to suit the age of your children
Helpful to have quiz questions prepared ahead.
Can be as energetic or quiet as you wish!

Suggested by: Moya Myerscough

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Seed Planting

Resources Required:

Used newspaper
Sticky labels (could have farm logo on)
Pencils
Soil
Seeds
Paper potter (you can buy these on the internet)
Shallow container to put paper pots in

Space Required:

Clear area to work and move in. Preferably area that can be swept up easily

Instructions:

This activity is useful for all ages depending on children's abilities. It allows the children to make a pot out of newspaper (good recycling) and to plant some seeds. They can then watch the seeds grow

Wrap length of newspaper (approx. 30cm long by 20cm wide) around the paper potter. Leave approx. 4cm overhanging the end of the potter. Fold this extra piece of paper over to form the base of the pot. Place a sticky label over the end of the newspaper to stop it unravelling. The label can have the pupils name on so they can identify their pot once back at school

Fill the pot half full with soil. Then place seeds in soil

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Comments:

Depending on the adult's knowledge, you can include the parts of the plant and their purpose as well as what plants need to grow. You can use props or pictures to support this. You can also link to pollination, season, seasonal foods, food miles etc

Instead of using a paper potter you could use old washed out yoghurt pots

Paper potters can be bought from the internet and range from £8 - £12 each.

Suggested by

Katy Pallas



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Animal drama

Resources required	None
Space required	Space for children to work in groups
Instructions	<p>A drama activity.</p> <p>Using their imagination and creativity, children have to become animals e.g. “be a butterfly”, “look like a snail”</p>
Comments	<p>If you have more than one child, make this into a guessing game where one child plays the role and others have to guess what they are representing.</p>
Suggested by	Bobbie Harvey

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Window decorations

Resources required

Collection of natural materials – seeds, leaves, fleece, feathers, twigs.
Could be collected by the children but do need to be dry!
Transparent sticky backed plastic book covering
Scissors

Space required

Table top space

Instructions

Pictures or patterns are made out of the natural materials and then sealed between two pieces of the transparent plastic film. These can then be taped to a window or hung in front of the window so the light shines through

Comments

It helps if the children create their designs on pieces of paper the same size as the transparent plastic before they arrange the pieces onto the sticky surface. Once the design is completed another piece of the plastic is laid on top and pressed down to seal

Suggested by

Moya Myerscough

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More ideas!

There are many more ideas that you can use as wet weather activities. Some involve craft materials whilst others are physical games to release energy!

Look in the LEAF Education on-line booklets which are available on www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk:

Environmental Arts e.g. Precious Things and Acrostic Poems

Games for the Outdoor Classroom e.g. Feed the Animals and the Photosynthesis Tree

Children's Activities at Farm Open Days e.g. Seed pictures and Pine cone animals

Hands on History e.g. Historical drama workshops warm up activities and Victorian Playground Games

Is there someone handy in your family who could make your own model milking cow (or goat) which will always be popular with visiting children?

<http://www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk/resources/1177>

Or have ready some print outs of the cut out farm animals and the children can make their own animals while it rains! Remember to supply scissors and crayons.

<http://www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk/resources/658>

Another fantastic source of activity ideas is the Woodland Trust Nature Detectives site:

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/activities/>

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LEAF Education

LEAF Education (formerly Farming and Countryside Education) works with school communities to help children and young adults understand the connection between farming and their daily lives.

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