

Quick activities



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Introduction

Here are some fairly swift activities to try with your children. They include a mixture of ideas that you can dip into ranging from a variety of card games to creating an easy bird feeder.

The key to success is good preparation as you will need to create the cards, for example, but then they can be used over and over again.

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Food Bingo

Resources required	<p>1 set of pictures / photographs of fruit or vegetables.</p> <p>Enough “bingo” cards for each child.</p> <p>Each “bingo” card split into squares with a name of fruit or vegetable in each square. Each card has to have one different fruit or vegetable to any other card to ensure it is unique.</p> <p>A counter for each player.</p>
Space required	Inside or outside.
Instructions	<p>Nominate a bingo caller (you or one of the children).</p> <p>One at a time reveal the photo card with fruit and veg on. Children to identify the fruit or veg and if it is on their card they cover the matching item with a counter on their bingo card. The first child to cover all the fruit and veg on their card is the winner – check they have covered the correct ones !</p>
Comments	For very young children the “bingo” cards might have a matching picture rather than using words.
Suggested by	Katy Pallas, LEAF North West Education Consultant

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You can download fruit and vegetable pictures from the internet e.g.
<http://busyteacher.org/14191-fruits-and-vegetables.html>

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Thought tree

Resources required	Two different ways of doing this – you can have a large trunk and branches of a tree painted on card on the wall or use a large branch with lots of smaller branches fixed in a pot. Card of various shades of green and brown. Scissors, pencils, pens, string and glue.
Space required	Space for children to draw, write and cut out. Preferably, a table .
Instructions	Children to draw round their hand on the card and then cut the hand shape out. If you don't have a lot of time or your children are very young, the hand shapes can be pre-cut. Children then write on the card their thoughts about the countryside, your day together or what ever topic you choose. If using the tree on the wall attach the pieces of card with glue to make it look like there are leaves on the tree. If using the branch attach the card hands with string.
Comments	Use pale coloured card so you can read the writing. Works best with children who can write independently but adults can always help younger children.
Suggested by	Katy Pallas, LEAF North West Education Consultant

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Bird Feeders

Resources required	Pine cones, wool/string, wild bird seed, and lard or solid vegetable fat.
Space required	Table to work around
Instructions	<p>Tie a piece of wool to the cone to make a loop to hang it from.</p> <p>Push lard into the pinecone and press the bird seed into the lard.</p>
Comments	<p>To speed things up you can have the lard and seeds ready mixed together so the children just squish the mixture into the cone.</p> <p>You should know if your child has a wheat allergy.</p> <p>This is a messy activity; you will need warm water, soap and paper towels to wash hands.</p>
Suggested by	Bobbie Harvey, LEAF East Midlands Education Consultant



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Farm Animal Pairs

Resources required	16xA4 cards made into pairs related by type of farm animal. Examples: ram,ewe,hogget,lamb, cow,bull,calf,heifer boar,sow,piglet,gilt cockerel,hen,chick,pullet
	Any other technical vocabulary can be used so long as they form pairs. Photos could be used. This is a good way of recapping and learning farming vocabulary .
Space required	Any
Instructions	This is based on the card game of pairs and the aim is to reveal two cards at a time which belong together. Put the children into 2 teams. Ideally, blu tac the cards up on a board or wall with the blank backs of the cards showing (or place them face down on a table). Invite the children to pick 2 cards at a time, show them to the others. If they are a pair (relating to the same type of animal) the cards are removed from the wall and the team scores a point. If not, the cards are returned to their original place. Keep score as to which team has most pairs.
Comments	Can be played over and over until the coach comes!
Suggested by	Brian Hainsworth, LEAF West Midlands Education Consultant

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Farm Sequencing Cards

Resources required	Collect a set of 10-15 photos relating to farm activities (dependent on age and ability as to how many steps you include).
Space required	Table or similar flat space
Instructions	Provide the children with the cards explaining they show the process that takes place on the farm and see if they can put the cards in the correct order.
Comments	Dairying works well but the game can be adapted for other food production processes.
Suggested by	Brian Hainsworth, LEAF West Midlands Education Consultant



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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.

Contact us
LEAF Education
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire
CV8 2LG

education@leafuk.org

024 7641 3911

@LEAF_Education

facebook.com/FarmingAndCountrysideEducation/