

## Chinese New Year: loose parts play

Provide opportunities for children to learn about Chinese New Year with our loose parts play activity.

### Learning aims

- To learn about different traditions and celebrations
- To recall information
- To be creative
- To represent learning and ideas.

### Resources

- Access to the internet so you can research Chinese New Year and choose appropriate resources
- Laminated images of Chinese New Year traditions
- A range of loose parts:
  - Paper and card
  - Wool and ribbon
  - Bells
  - Buttons
  - Beads
  - Match sticks and lollipop sticks
  - Coins
  - Pompoms
  - Stones
  - Corks
- Dishes or trays to display loose parts
- Space for children to create.



## Activity Outline

1. Carry out some research prior to the activity so you can choose the best resources to have available as loose parts. Traditionally Chinese New Year includes colours of red, gold, yellow and black so this may form the basis of the loose parts you provide
2. Source some images of Chinese New Year traditions. These could be traditional clothes, decorations, dragons, lanterns etc. Laminate the images
3. Collate your range of loose parts
4. Arrange the loose parts in dishes or trays which children can access easily
5. Make the resources available to children in a specific part of the setting. This could be on a table or in an area of the setting with some clear floor space
6. Display the images in the area as inspiration for children
7. Encourage the children to use the loose parts to make Chinese New Year inspired creations.

## Extending the activity

- Set children tasks of certain things to create, for example, can they recreate a mythical dragon?
- Leave out the children's creations so they can continue to add to these as you explore the festival.

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*To maintain children's safety, ensure that all loose parts you provide for children to use have been risk assessed and are suitable for use.*