

Investigating in the dark

Explore and investigate a familiar area in the early evenings with the children at your setting to develop senses (e.g. sight, sound, smell) in the dark.

Resources

- Warm clothes
- Torches
- Glow in the dark paint
- Pebbles
- Old jars
- Tissue paper
- Glue
- Crayons
- Battery powered fairy lights or tea lights



Activity Outline

- Use the glow in the dark paint to draw shapes, pictures, numbers or letters onto the stones
- Allow the stones to dry
- Draw pictures on the tissue paper
- Stick the tissue paper inside the jar and add the lights
- Place the stones and jars outside in several locations
- Ask the children if they can find the items in the dark
- If you have a bug hotel can the children see any bugs in there in the dark?
- What other animals can the children see in the dark?
- If the sky is clear, ask the children whether they can see any stars? There are many apps for tablets that help the children to see the different star constellations so use these to help the children spot the different shapes and point to them in the sky
- What planets can the children see? Venus, Mars and Jupiter are regularly seen in the skies at different times of the year
- How about the International Space Station? Can the children see this? (Many of the apps also show its location). Continue this inside by looking on the YouTube channel to see what the ISS sees from space.

Working with Babies

For your babies and toddlers simply take the children outside well wrapped up and enjoy looking at the stars. Take out battery operated lights for the children to enjoy the sensory aspects of the darkness. The mobile children can join in with the above activities, the younger ones may need to be carried by staff to become involved.