

Muddy Puddles!

Get messy and plan a Muddy Puddle Walk with your nursery!

Learning aims

- Awareness of the natural world
- Awareness of keeping safe and healthy
- Developing independence and self-care skills
- Understanding of colour, pattern and shape
- Being aware of changes
- Being expressive, imaginative and creative
- Using descriptive language
- Exploration and experimentation
- Building self-esteem and confidence
- Having fun!



Resources

- Sticks
- Chunky coloured chinks
- Waterproofs
- Wellies
- Hosepipe/watering cans/sprinklers

Activity outline

- Ideally, choose a rainy day to do this activity. If it's a dry day you could create your own 'rain' using a hosepipe/watering cans/sprinkler
- Introduce the activity to children. Talk to them about the appropriate clothing to wear when going outdoors in wet/cold weather
- Support children to put on their outdoor clothing
- Talk about the weather and encourage children to describe what it feels like e.g. wet, cold
- Encourage children to note and describe the patterns they see as the rain or water forms puddles and splashes on the ground
- Encourage children to experiment by exploring, jumping and splashing in the puddles
- If it's muddy, encourage children to 'stir' puddles and see how the puddle changes in appearance
- Introduce chunky coloured chinks and allow children time and freedom to create their own patterns on the ground
- Draw their attention to how bright the colours become when they are wet; talk about the colours they see
- Listen carefully to children's descriptive language and talk to them about their imaginative creations
- Break off a piece of chalk and drop it into a puddle
- Draw children's attention to how the 'hard' pieces of chalk mix with water to become 'soft' and 'paint-like'
- Demonstrate how to make different colours by adding further pieces of coloured chalk and encouraging children to 'mix' them together by jumping on the chinks or stirring the water with their feet/hands.

Working with Babies

Remember, babies love playing with water too!

Fill a Tuff Spot or shallow tray with water. Make sure the room is warm and you have plenty of towels! Hold younger babies safely in your arms and dip their feet and toes gently into the water, allowing them to splash their feet. Model language back to them by repeating the happy sounds they make as they splash. Never leave babies unattended near water.