Activity

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Bonfire night rockets

Bonfire night is a great opportunity to further support learning through exciting experiences and activities. Create a Bonfire night rocket and watch it zoom through the air, a great opportunity for language development.

Learning aims

- Talk about what they are doing, predict what they think will happen and describe what they see
- Calculate, measure, problem solve
- Explore, predict and develop an understanding of how things work
- Working together in a group, negotiating
- Fine and gross motor skill development

Resources

- Thin cardboard tubes or wide straws
- Balloons and balloon pump
- String, sticky tape, clothes peg
- Range of measuring resources such as measuring sticks, tape measure, ruler.

Activity

- Use the children's experiences of fireworks to discuss rockets. Talk about the colours, sights and sounds to bring the activity to life and enable children to make connections
- Have an example balloon rocket ready and show the children how it works
- Thread the string through the straw or tube
- Attach the string to solid items at both ends (such as 2 walls or 2 tables) so that the string is taut
- Use the pump to blow up the balloon and use the peg to hold the end together (do not tie off)
- Attach the inflated balloon to the underside of the tube or straw using the sticky tape, so the balloon sits below the string
- Count down to zero, release the peg and watch the balloon blast off and zoom along the string.

Extension ideas

- Ask children to estimate how far they think the balloon rocket will travel. They could mark the distance with a post-it note with their name on. Whose guess was closest?
- Measure the distances using a range of measuring tools. Record your findings and compare the distances

- Introduce some problem solving. How does the balloon move? How can we make it travel further?
- Look at pictures of different types of rockets on the internet.