

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.

Activity: Going on holiday

Not everyone can pack up and head on holiday to the beach, which is why this week's activity inspires you to bring the beach to your children by creating your very own outdoor (or indoor) seaside.

Children can use the role play area as a holiday destination, re-enacting experiences such as splashing in the sea and having fun together by pretending to be at the beach.

Learning aims

- Recall experiences
- Pretend play
- Engage in social interaction
- Use a range of vocabulary in play.

Resources

- Large open access sandpit (this can be created using a tarpaulin sheet or large tuff tray)
- A supervised paddling pool with a small amount of water or buckets of water (plus clothes or bathing suits that children can get wet in)
- Play sand
- Accessories of your choice such as: buckets and spades (or paper cups and spoons), beach towels, sunglasses, beach balls, shells, camera, drinks and snacks.



Alternatively use blue and yellow materials to create the sand and sea.

Activity outline

1. Set up your beach area ensuring the space allows pairs or small groups of children to access this at the same time so they can play together. Use a range of chosen accessories to create a beach theme which is inviting to children
2. Engage children in discussions about their past experiences of going on holiday or plans they may have to go on holiday this year. Encourage them to share and compare details, such as how they got there, who went with them and if they know how long they were on holiday. Model this yourself by using rich language to share one of your holiday experiences

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3. Discover if any of the children have been to a beach. Some children may have been abroad, or some may have been on a day trip to a beach in the UK. Ask children to share their experiences of the beach such as what they saw, heard and felt and what they did when they were there
4. Remember that some children may never have been to the beach. All children should be encouraged to share their experiences of where they have been on holiday or what they like to do to with family when they have days out
5. Show the children the beach area that has been created for them to play in. Where needed, give suggestions for what they could do in the area such as making sandcastles, searching for seashells, splashing in water, playing pass the beach ball, relaxing on a beach towel, wearing sunglasses and sun hats and taking holiday snaps of each other using the camera
6. Children may need you to support and model pretend play and related vocabulary in the area until the resources become familiar
7. Leave out the resources for children to role play with over the summer and add to these as and when needed based on children's experiences and interests over the holiday period. Perhaps some children may bring things back from their holidays which could be used in your beach area.

Extension ideas

- Leave a box with paper and coloured tissue paper so children can make more cones and ice cream if needed
- Introduce lollies into your ice cream shop (using lollipop sticks and coloured card)
- Create frozen yoghurt lollies for children to enjoy at snack time.

NDNA products to support you with this activity

- [Millie's Mark.](#)