

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: Splish Splash Play

Water play is a fun and engaging activity for young children and a great way to cool down in the summer months.

Whether it's through playing at water tables, splashing in puddles or exploring objects with water, this activity offers a host of benefits.

Learning aims

- Physical development
- Vocabulary expansion
- Sensory development.



Resources

- Water table/tuff tray or similar
- Waterproof mat or towels
- Objects of different materials, shapes, and sizes (funnels, sponges, face cloths, plastic ducks, spoons, etc)
- Food colouring/ice cubes/foam (optional)
- Wellington boots
- Aprons/waterproof clothing or change of clothes.

Activity outline

1. Set up a water table with various containers, funnels, and scoops for children to explore cause and effect as they pour, scoop and manipulate water, encouraging their problem-solving, critical thinking, vocabulary expansion and motor skills. Provide objects made from a variety of materials to increase children's understanding of the physical world around them. Add materials such as ice cubes, warm water, natural food colouring or foam to enhance the sensory experience and inspire exploration and experimentation
2. Introduce the activity: Explain that they will be doing an activity called Splish Splash Play. Discuss how water feels, how it moves and the different sounds it makes. You may need to model some descriptions first, introducing new vocabulary

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3. Allow children to explore the water freely, using their senses and experimenting with the various objects provided
4. Encourage pouring from one container to another, scoop and transfer water using cups, spoons, funnels and other receptacles
5. Ask the children to explore different ways of making splashes, using their hands and the objects provided (and feet, if appropriate)
6. Stimulate their curiosity by suggesting ideas or asking open-ended questions such as, "Can you show me a big/small splash?", "How big is the splash when you drop the sponge/pebble into the water?"
7. Children could splash, jump, dance in any water that has been displaced to the ground helping to improve gross motor skills and overall physical development
8. Promote social interaction by encouraging working together, sharing objects and taking turns splashing
9. When the children have finished, ensure that they are comfortable and dry before moving on to their next activity
10. Encourage the children to share their experiences and reflections on what they discovered and enjoyed.

Extension ideas

- Freeze small objects/treasures into ice – give the children syringes/spray bottles or salt to help melt the ice and discover the 'treasure' inside
- Create a small world beach with water, sand, rocks, and small figures
- Read water related books such as Big Red Bath by Julia Jarman and Adrian Reynolds.