

**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: Bonfires and fireworks

**On 5 November, people across the UK celebrate bonfire night with fireworks and bonfires.**

This week's activity will support children's knowledge of how to keep themselves and others safe on bonfire night and develop their fine motor skills, as they create their own bonfire and firework art.

### Learning aims

- Strengthen fine motor skills
- Explore cause and effect
- Be creative
- Staying safe on bonfire night.

### Resources

- Information about bonfires and fireworks e.g. book, internet, video etc.
- Recycled bottles with a trigger
- Large black tuff tray
- Large white sheet or paper
- Brushes, sponges and paint in fire colours e.g. red, orange, yellow
- Water.



### Activity outline

1. Engage children in discussion about their experiences of bonfire night. Perhaps they remember going to a bonfire or firework display or experienced these at home or perhaps they have only seen images in books or online. Remember, not all children will have had this experience and some may not have had a positive experience as fireworks may have scared them or a family pet
2. Share a book or video with children about bonfire and firework safety such as Bernie Sparks and Rocky the Rocket on Bonfire night: Bonfire night and firework safety by Christopher Mark Stokes. Explore with children the possible dangers of bonfire night and how they can keep themselves and others safe, such as adults checking there are no hedgehogs sheltering in bonfires before they are lit, only adults lighting and disposing of fireworks safely, standing at a safe distance from bonfires and fireworks, having buckets of water or sand nearby in case of an emergency, etc.

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3. Encourage children to use the paints, resources and their hands to create an image of a bonfire on the tuff tray
4. Prop up the tuff tray (such as against a wall or fence). Provide trigger bottles of water and engage children in a game where they squirt water to 'put out' the flames they have painted. Ask children what changes they notice and what effect the water has on the flames
5. Add a few squirts of paint of different colours to different spray bottles and dilute with water. Shake to mix the solution and let children spray on the sheet/paper to create their own fireworks. Explore cause and effect with children, for example, is the effect different when they stand closer to or further from the picture, what happens if they spray one colour on top of another, whether there are different spray options on the trigger and what effects do these create and why.

## Extension ideas

- Lay paper onto a surface such as a table or floor alongside the paint and spray bottles. Provide straws for children to blow the paint and water discussing the effects
- Use paints or chunky chinks outdoors on floors or walls to allow children to explore this activity on a larger scale.

## NDNA products to support you with this activity

- [EYFS Expressive Arts & Design](#) – face to face training