

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: Developing ICT Skills - Cameras

In today's digital age most children are familiar with cameras and video recordings. This activity engages children in exploring different types of cameras and how they work, it gives children the skills and autonomy to use cameras in their play.

Learning aims

- Explore new and familiar objects to discover their purpose and how they work
- Engage in new experiences
- Begin to use technology for a specific task
- Develop vocabulary
- Express own preferences.



Resources

- Cameras (include instant camera, digital camera, nursery smart phone or iPad)
- Basket/bag for the cameras.

Activity outline

1. Show children a photograph you have taken (from a previous activity/event in your setting). Discuss the photograph and talk about the camera used and who took the photo
2. Invite children to share their own experiences of a camera at home, who takes the family photos etc.
3. Introduce the cameras/devices with cameras you have collected and pass them around for children to explore. Demonstrate how they work, start by taking a group photo with an instant camera and watch the image develop. Take the same photo with a nursery device, which can be seen instantly, talk about the similarities and differences between the two devices
4. Invite children to take photos with the cameras/camera devices so they can build their skills, talk about technical aspects such as angles and holding the camera still to prevent blurring etc. Demonstrate by taking an image with just children's feet or an image that is blurred and ask the children to problem solve ways to prevent this happening again
5. Encourage children to explore the cameras and ask open ended questions, for example, "I wonder what would happen if you ...".

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Extension ideas:

- Once children are comfortable using the camera, leave them in an accessible place and invite children to take images of things that interest them during their play experiences.

NDNA products to support you with this activity:

- [Online safety in early years](#) – free online course