

Potion Making

Create your own magic potions.

You can make magic potions outside in any sort of container such as pots or buckets.

If playing inside, you can make magic potions at the sink, put down a tarpaulin and use large bowls.



Play spark

Children love to play in water, this challenge adds some magic to the mix.



You might notice...

Children may be very focused on pouring, mixing and exploring the water. Complex stories can emerge and spin off into other areas of children's play.



Top tips

Be prepared for some mess. Being prepared allows adults to say yes and to support children's play with fewer interruptions. A selection of containers and appropriate clothing are important outdoors. If inside, have an area for water play, with towels handy.



What's next...

If children enjoy this activity, collect a range of interesting containers of different sizes as well as utensils for mixing. Add smells or colours to make the potions more sensory.



Play types

Creative play, exploratory play, object play, communication play, dramatic play, role play, social play, fantasy and imaginative play, symbolic play.

Obstacle Course

What can you find to build
your own obstacle course?

Is it a race or
competition?

You set the rules!



Play spark

By creating their own obstacle course, children can make it theirs, as easy or as challenging as they like.



You might notice...

Children are being active and having fun. Watch out for children's skills and confidence developing.



Top tips

Stand back – let children take the lead in what they are doing and how they organise themselves. Before interrupting, consider if children are managing risks or how you could support them to do so.



What's next...

How fast can you finish the circuit? Maybe you could have a race! Can you do it with a cup of water in one hand? What about if you balanced a book on your head? Think of different ways to challenge yourself.



Play types

Creative play, exploratory play, mastery play, object play, communication play, social play, locomotor play, fantasy and imaginative play.

Copy What You See

There are things all around us that move – trees blow in the wind, toasters pop, a bird flies past.

Can you copy these movements? What else can you imitate?



Play spark

Look around you. What can you see that moves? Are there objects you use everyday that move?



You might notice...

This challenge can be about big physical movements, small subtle movements or even be about noises.



Top tips

Some children may need help to get started. It's ok for adults to join in and offer ideas, then stand back when they are ready.



What's next...

Copy what the people around you are doing, making sure they are willing first! What are they doing? What emotions can you see? You can even ask them to challenge you by performing a range of facial expressions or poses.



Play types

Creative play, exploratory play, mastery play, communication play, dramatic play, role play, social play, locomotor play, fantasy and imaginative play.

Rainbow Hunt

Collect colourful items and then arrange them together in an exciting colour pattern.

Is your rainbow big or small? Does your rainbow grant wishes?

Maybe there's some treasure at the end of it!



Play spark

This challenge could be a scavenger hunt or creating patterns and pictures. It can be done solo or collaboratively.



You might notice...

There may be a lot of communication about what's needed and how objects are used. When busy, children may be very active without realising.



Top tips

Don't be too set on creating a realistic rainbow. Stand back – let children take the lead in what they are doing and how they organise themselves.



What's next...

Take pictures of the children's creations to share if they would like to. If the children enjoyed searching for objects, they could create a scavenger hunt with a different theme.



Play types

Creative play, exploratory play, object play, communication play, social play, locomotor play, fantasy and imaginative play, symbolic play.

Painting

Paint using anything you can find.

You could make stamps from things like sponges or leaves.

Did you know that if you blow hard on a blob of paint it can spread out into an interesting shape?



Play spark

As a quick and easy activity, try painting with water. Water painting works well on pavements or cardboard, anything that changes colour when wet. Once water dries, it disappears and you have more room to paint again.



You might notice...

Children might experiment with colours and textures. When painting with a mixture of resources children can investigate and learn how things feel, smell and sometimes taste.



Top tips

Be prepared for some mess. A messy play area often means children are having lots of fun!



What's next...

Try making marks with different things, like sticks and leaves. You can make chalk paint by crushing chalk and mixing it with a little water.



Play types

Creative play, exploratory play, object play, locomotor play.