



Overview

Water play areas should offer lots of different play opportunities. Moveable parts, rather than fixed materials, allow children to explore over and over again, with a different play experience each time.



Setting Up

- Choose an area near to an outdoor water-tap or other water source. Ensure there is enough room for children to move and build with large loose parts, such as guttering and pipes.
- Have a range of large and small containers for children to fill, carry and pour from.
- If you are using water aprons, consider where and how these will be kept in the area and how children will access them.

Equipment

- Different sizes of containers to carry, fill and use to pour – buckets, jugs, basins, watering cans
- A range of different sized sieves, funnels, ladles, colanders.
- Loose parts – pipes, guttering

Key Interactions

Play alongside the children, commenting on what is happening and modelling using the resources. Ask questions to encourage creative thinking.

“ I wonder what will happen if....”

The Benefits

- Active Play – exploring the properties of water, choosing resources
- Physical and Sensory Exploration
- Creative and Critical Thinking Development – problem solving

Progression in Learning

Add enhancements such as:

Seasonal natural materials – acorns, blossom, autumn leaves, herbs

Small nets/ Range of guttering stands/ Toy boats/ fish or ducks(numbers on the bottom)