Water Play

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.
Or introduce small nets/ range of guttering stands/ toy boats/ fish or ducks (numbers on the bottom).