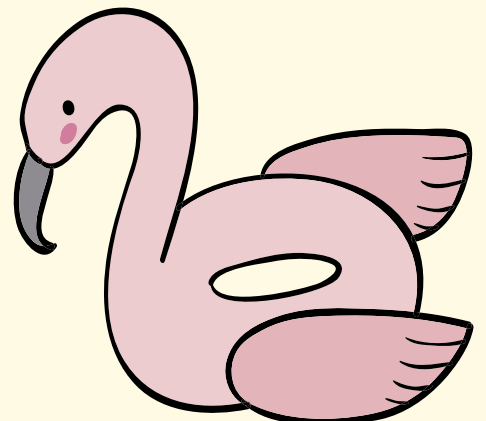
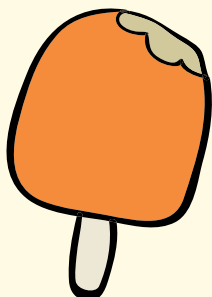
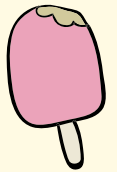
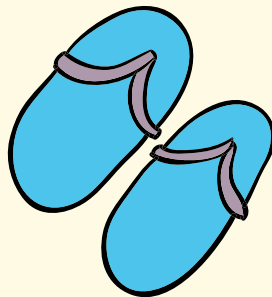
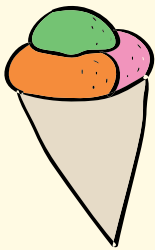


Summer

activity guide



Week one: the outdoors

Fairy Gardens

What do you need?

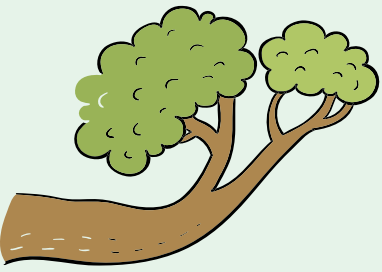
- A variety of natural materials, outside space and small world figures
- Examples might include small stones and pebbles, grass, sticks, moss, feathers, leaves...whatever you can find!



The activity

- Find a small outdoor space, gather some materials and let your imagination wander...
- Have fun in natural space, but you could also create a mini world in a bike tyre, a hula hoop or in a container such as a plant pot or a plastic tub.
- Experiment with different materials – sand, soil, grass, bark chippings, pea gravel, mud, water.
- Repurpose raised planters for play and include hardy plants such as willow or bamboo or evergreen shrubs.
- Use natural materials to create characters, for example stick people and pebble bugs.
- Make use of elastic bands and string as an extension activity and to help develop fine motor skills.

Early
years



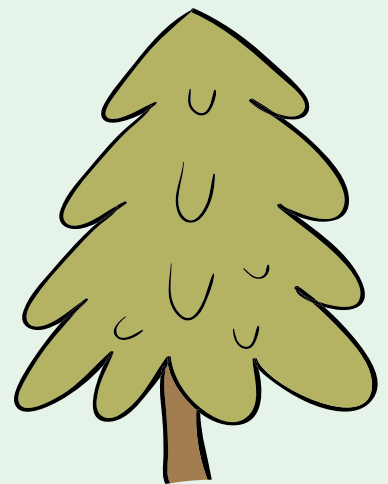
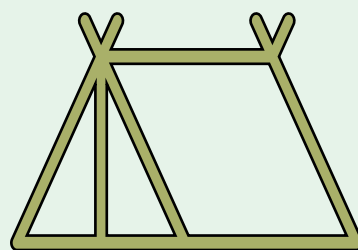
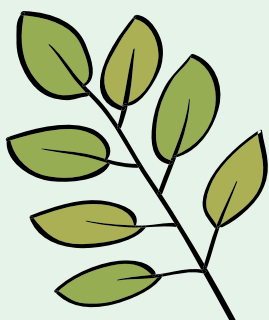
Den building

What do you need?

- Logs and branches, Planks of wood, Ropes, bungee cords, string
- Tarpaulin, Camouflage netting, Old blankets, rugs, etc
- Torches
- Cardboard boxes
- Clothes pegs, bulldog clips

The activity

- The beauty of this activity is that the children get to play freely as children should, and the only thing you need to plan is where to store the stuff at the end of the day.
- You can also make use of the changing seasons: bags of leaves in the autumn, or leaf covered branches from spring pruning – what could be better for den making?
- Remember don't plan, don't even take the stuff out of the boxes, allow the children to be naturally inquisitive, to consult, negotiate, plan and play in a way that is appropriate to them.



Week two: stories

Cloud Gazing

What do you need?

- A blue sky with clouds.
- An open, comfortable space to lie.
- A rug or equivalent to lie on if the ground is damp.
- Alternatively a seat by a window, where you can comfortably relax.



The activity

- Choose a day when you will be relaxed lying on the ground looking up at the sky.
- Find a comfortable spot. In the garden, in the park, at the beach. Look at the clouds in the sky.
- Can you see a face? Can you see a unicorn? Can you see a fairy-tale castle? Can you see a whale or a dolphin? What do the clouds make you think of?
- Can you make up stories to link the different things you can see amongst the clouds?

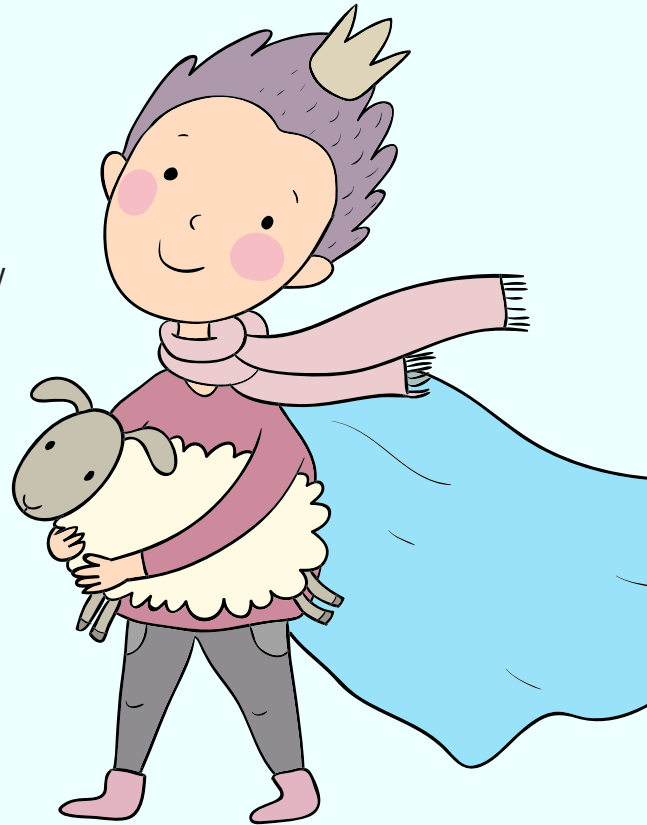
Early
years

'AS you write it' competition

About the competition

The One Show, along with The Shakespeare North Playhouse is launching an exciting new playwriting competition, giving children and young people across the UK the opportunity to see their ideas come to life on stage.

- Open to children aged 7 and 16 years old.
- The deadline is just before midnight on Monday 31st August 2020.



What do you need to do?

- All you need to enter is an idea for a play, a short description of up to four of the main characters and the first few opening lines. You'll also need to tell us what having the opportunity to write your play and have it performed on stage would mean to you.
- Winners will be announced on The One Show in early 2021 and an excerpt from their play will be shown on the programme. The final three winners will receive a special award and have their play performed at The Shakespeare North Playhouse when it opens in 2022.
- More information here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/1SCKS8VmFFGvyggKbqGGyds/as-you-write-it-your-play-on-stage>

Older
kids

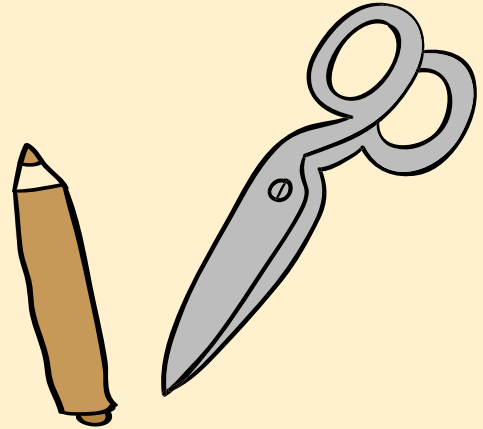
Week three: art

Early
years

Activity table cloth

What do you need?

- Roll of brown paper
- Pens, pencils, stamps, stickers, etc
- Tape
- Permanent marker
- Colourful pen pots



The activity

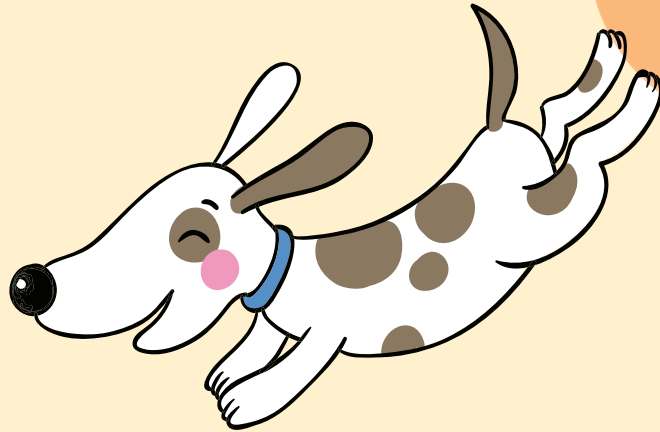
- Roll out the paper, to a length that completely covers the table. If your table is too wide, just cut extra lengths of paper, so that you have enough to cover the width of your table.
- Using the tape, secure the paper to the table.
- At each place, draw a 'picture frame', using the permanent marker - I used a tray to draw around.
- Beside each picture frame, write a list of activity ideas eg: Draw a picture, play hangman with your neighbour on the left, play noughts and crosses, play squares with your neighbour on the right, name five types of dog, write your name with your left hand, etc.
- Put out pens, crayons, stamps, so they are accessible. It might help to mark a place on the tablecloth for each type of resource to be located, so that they are distributed evenly along the table
- Allow the children to draw, stamp, stick, etc as they choose.

Balloon dog

Older
kids

What do you need?

- Long balloons
- Balloon pump



The activity

- Stretch out your balloon to give it extra flexibility.
- Take the open end of the balloon and put approximately 1cm of it onto the pump to create a tight seal.
- Hold it in place with two fingers and blow up the balloon using the pump. Leave a few inches at the end of the balloon that haven't been inflated. Tie the open end into a knot.
- To make its head, measure 2 inches from the knot you just made and twist the balloon. Make sure to hold on to both sides of the twist.
- To make the ears, keep hold of the end piece you just twisted, and twist another section about 1 inch from the first. Repeat that process for the second ear. Fold the balloon at the second twist and the top two smaller pieces together to form the head.
- After creating the head leave about 2 inches of neck and make another pinch and twist to start the front legs.
- Using the same method you did for the ears, assemble the front legs.
- After creating the front legs, leave about 3 to 4 inches of body. Begin to assemble the back legs, using the same technique as the ears and front

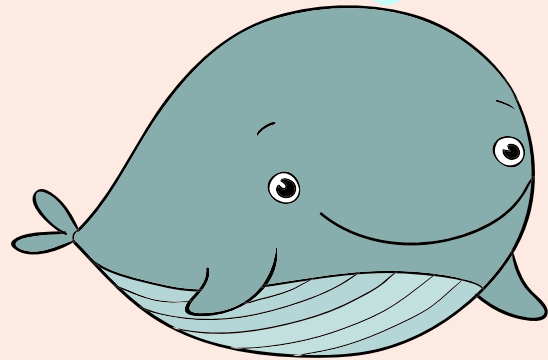
Week four: Inventions

Giant bubbles

Early
years

What do you need?

- Bucket
- 120ml washing up liquid
- 1.2 liters water
- Clingfilm
- Glycerin
- Wooden rod or length of dowel
- 2m piece of string
- Metal washer



The activity

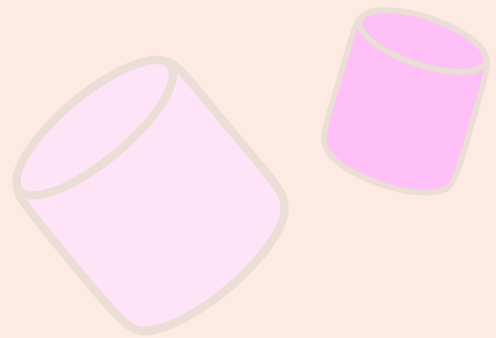
- In a bucket, mix the washing-up liquid with the water. Add two table-spoons of glycerine and five tablespoons of sugar. Cover the mixture with clingfilm and leave it to settle for a few days.
- To make your bubble wand, take a wooden rod and tie the string tightly around one end. Thread the string through the metal washer. This weighs down the string and holds it open when your making bubbles.
- Loosley tie the string to the stick about 20cm from the strings end.
- Tie the loose end to the first knot you made to complete the loop.

Spaghetti and marshmallow towers

Older
kids

What do you need?

- Uncooked spaghetti - you can stick with one basic sort, or if you wish to make things more educational, provide a range of lengths and thickness, to look at structural properties.
- Mini marshmallows
- Strawberry laces



The activity

- If you are planning on making the construction a challenge, make sure that the children are fully aware of this before you start!
- Explain that shorter lengths are stronger and less likely to break, and that it's best to start the construction by making a base, as this will give the tower some strength and rigidity. Triangles are the strongest shape, so you can make a base using a series of connected triangles.
- Use the mini marshmallows as connectors to join the strands of spaghetti.
- To make the joints more secure, lash the using the strawberry laces.
- Allow the children to build the towers to their own design and award prizes for the tallest, strongest, most attractive, etc

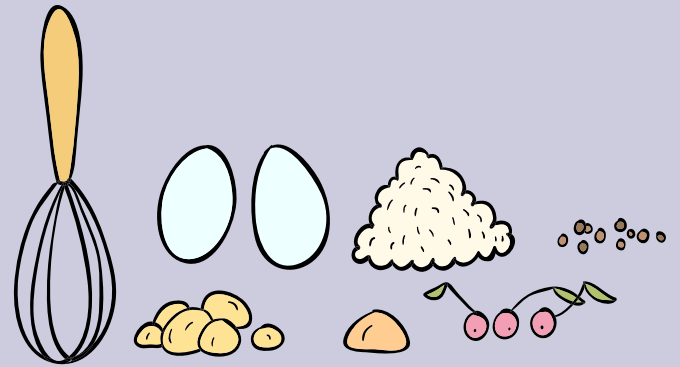
Week five: Cookery

Simple iced biscuits

Early
years

What do you need?

- 200g unsalted butter, softened
- 200g golden caster sugar
- 1 large egg
- ½ tsp vanilla extract or 1 lemon, zested
- 400g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- 8-12 x 19g coloured icing pens, or fondant icing sugar mixed with a little water and food colouring



The activity

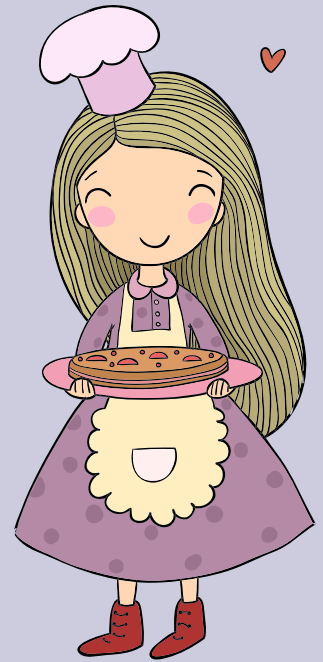
- Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Put the butter in a bowl and beat it using an electric whisk until soft and creamy. Beat in the sugar, then the egg and vanilla or lemon, and finally the flour to make a dough. If the dough feels a bit sticky, add a little more flour and knead it in.
- Cut the dough into six pieces and roll out one at a time to about 5mm thickness on a floured surface. Cut out letter and number shapes (we used 7 x 4cm cutters) and peel away the leftover dough at the edges.
- Transfer the biscuits to two baking sheets and bake for 7-10 mins or until the edges are just brown. Leave to cool and repeat with the rest of the dough.
- Ice the biscuits using the pens to make stripes or dots, or colour in the whole biscuit if you like. They will keep for five days in an airtight container.

Summer pudding

What do you need?

- 300g strawberry
- 250g blackberry
- 100g redcurrant
- 500g raspberry
- OR 1¼kg/2lb 12oz mixed berries and currants of your choice
- 175g golden caster sugar
- 7 slices day-old white bread, from a square, medium-cut loaf

Older
kids



The activity

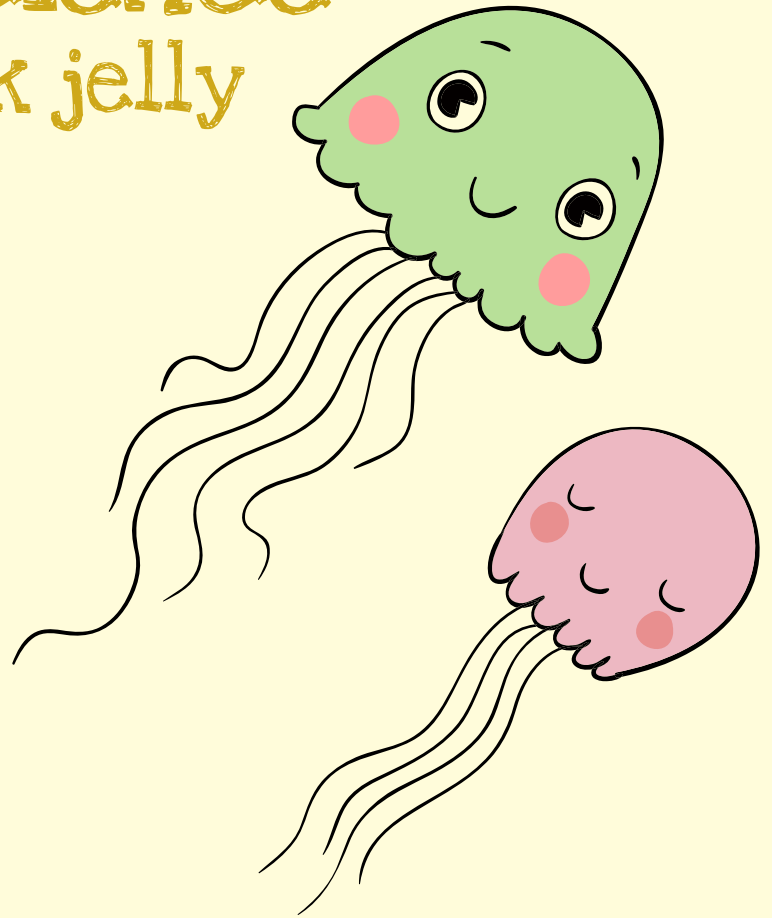
- Wash fruit and gently dry on kitchen paper – keep strawberries separate. Put sugar and 3 tbsp water into a large pan. Gently heat until sugar dissolves – stir a few times. Bring to a boil for 1 min, then tip in the fruit (not strawberries). Cook for 3 mins over a low heat, stirring 2-3 times. Put a sieve over a bowl and tip in the fruit and juice.
- Line the 1.25-litre basin with cling film as this will help you to turn out the pudding. Overlap two pieces of cling film in the middle of the bowl as it's easier than trying to get one sheet to stick to all of the curves. Let the edges overhang by 15cm. Cut the crusts off the bread. Cut 4 pieces of bread in half, a little on an angle, to give 2 lopsided rectangles. Cut 2 slices into 4 triangles each and leave the final piece whole.
- Dip the whole piece of bread into the juice for a few secs just to coat. Push this into the bottom of the basin. Now dip the wonky rectangular pieces one at a time and press around the basin's sides so that they fit together neatly, alternately placing wide and narrow ends up. If you can't quite fit the last piece of bread in it doesn't matter, just trim into a triangle, dip in juice and slot in. Now spoon in the softened fruit, adding the strawberries here and there as you go.
- Dip the bread triangles in juice and place on top. Keep leftover juice for later. Bring cling film up and loosely seal. Put a side plate on top and weight down with cans. Chill for 6 hrs or overnight. To serve, open out cling film then put a serving plate upside-down on top and flip over. serve with leftover juice, any extra berries and cream.

Week Six: Science

Glow in the dark jelly

What do you need?

- Jelly
- Tonic water
- Sugar
- Microwave
- UV light/black light



The activity

- Following the instructions on the packet of jelly, put some jelly and tonic water into a measuring jug. Heat the mixture in a microwave or on the hob according to the instructions.
- Stir the mixture so the jelly is mixed with the water. Add some more tonic water. If you want the jelly to taste nice add some sugar at this point - tonic water tastes very bitter!
- Pour the mixture into a bowl or jelly mould and place in the refrigerator to set. This might take a bit of time.
- Take your jelly out of the mould then turn off your lights and turn on the UV light to see the jelly glow! The glow comes from a substance called quinine, an ingredient found in tonic water.

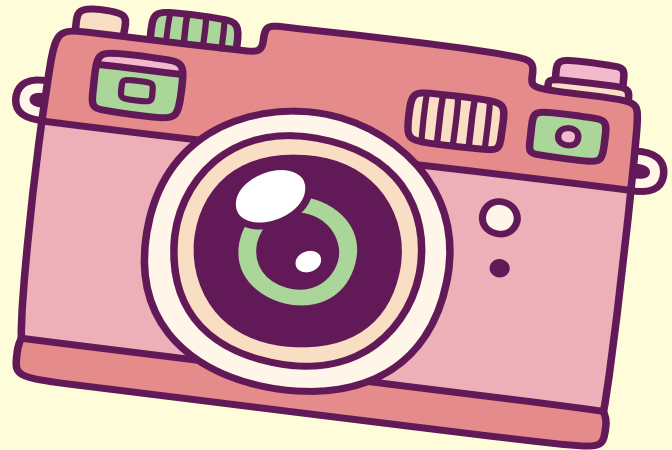
Early
years

Cardboard camera

Older
kids

What do you need?

- Empty cube-shaped tissue box
- Cardboard toilet roll tube
- Small magnifying glass
- Sheet of tracing paper
- Paper to decorate
- Scissors
- Sticky tape



The activity

- Take an empty tissue box. On the opposite side to the opening, hold the cardboard tube and draw around it in a circle. Push a pencil through the middle of the circle to make a hole and then carefully cut out the circle with scissors.
- Wrap the box in coloured paper (without covering up the opening) and secure with tape. Tape a magnifying glass to the end of the cardboard tube and slide the tube into the hole you made in the box. It should move easily in and out.
- Cut a sheet of tracing paper down to size and tape it taut over the opening of the box.
- Point your camera at a bright object and move the lense in and out until you see a sharp image appear on the screen. it will be back to front and upside down.

