



Summer Fun

Play Kit





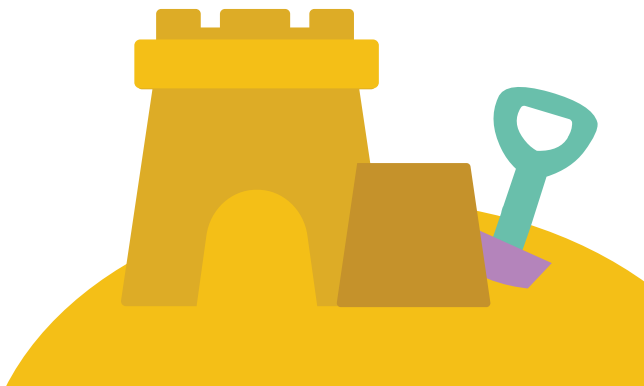
How to use this resource

This resource is for you and your playgroups to use during a playgroup session or at home. Please remember, it's important to be flexible and respond to the needs and interests of the playgroup families. This may mean not all children will want to participate in planned learning experiences. Give them the option of choosing to take part, as they all learn in different ways.

At playgroup or at home there are many opportunities where children can be involved in active and engaging summer fun activities as part of their everyday routine. Children of all ages want fun and stimulating activities to do during the warm summer holidays to keep them engaged (and cool!).

Plan activities according to the children's developmental levels and interests. Encourage parents to allow their children to be part of the decision-making process about what activities and outdoor experiences are done during the summer holidays.

Remember, summer fun is a great way of creating childhood memories that will last a lifetime!



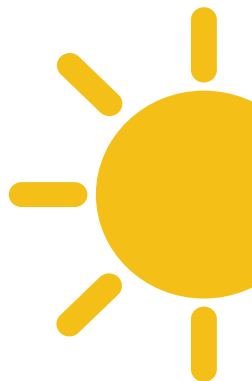
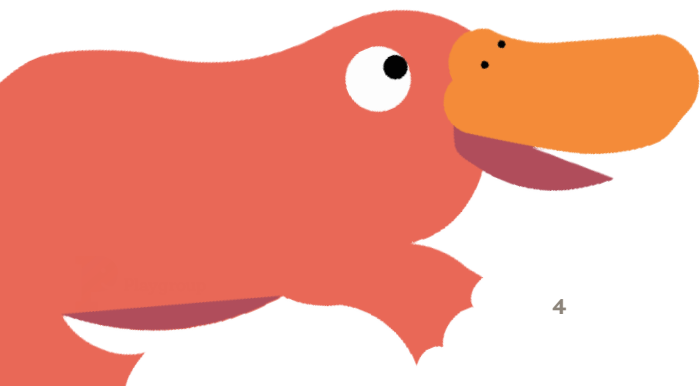
Summer fun in everyday life:

The summer holidays are a great time for children and families to take it a bit slower and enjoy the lovely summer weather. There are so many opportunities to create summer fun at home or out and about in your local community.

Summer fun could be, a trip to the beach, discovering the fun of running through the sprinkler in the backyard or the sensory experiences of sitting in the sand or on the grass at that favourite family spot.

Why not:

- Take photos of your summer fun activities to share with others at playgroup after the holidays
- Make a home or playgroup collage of what everyone did during summer. This will prompt children to recall what they did and share it with others
- Create a family bucket list of summer fun ideas and tick them off as you do them?



By participating in these summer fun play experiences children can develop skills in:



Creativity and imagination.



Hand-eye coordination.



Social interactions and cooperation.



Math and science concepts.



Fine/gross motor skills

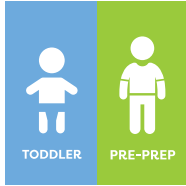


Problem solving.



This months activities:

1. Frozen Animals
2. Ice Cube Painting
3. Tummy Time
4. Making Bubbles
5. Fun With Water Play
6. Spray Bottle Painting
7. Magnetic Ice Fishing
8. Ice Treasure Hunt



Activity #1

Frozen Animals

Why?

Frozen Animals is an activity that can be enjoyed by many, especially on a hot summer day. It invites children to use their senses and explore the sensation of the 'cold' item while also offering the opportunity to explore how to remove the items from the ice (i.e. melting the ice away by using water and sunshine, etc.). Children also employ mathematical skills when taking part in this activity. For example, they learn the differences between liquids and solids.

What you need?

- Ice containers and water to form the ice
- Plastic animals and bugs
- Food colouring

Tip!

Read children's books such as *Who Sank the Boat?* and *How Full is Your Bucket?*

Instructions

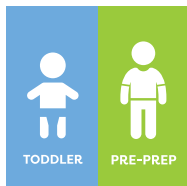
1. Fill the containers with water.
2. Place the animal/bug into the container with a drop of food colouring.
3. Put container of water with animal into the freezer and freeze overnight.
4. Remove from the freezer just prior to doing the activity.
5. Invite children to touch the ice and talk about its texture.
6. Combine this activity with water play and invite children to discuss ways of getting the animal or bug out of the ice.



Extension of the activity

Doing these activities with children will ignite their curiosity and enable them to reflect on what they are doing, develop a love of learning and encourages them to take the initiative.

- Use balloons as the container and place plastic dinosaurs inside the water to create dinosaur eggs.
- Use recyclable items to measure capacity and concepts of sinking and floating; use open-ended questions, "I wonder what frozen item will have the most water after it melts?"



Activity #2

Ice Cube Painting

Why?

Embrace the summer heat with this chilly ice paint! Kids love to swirl the melting paint over paper, creating beautiful designs. They'll practice their colour recognition and counting skills while observing paint going from a liquid to a solid and then back again.

What you need?

- Ice cube/ice pop mould
- Liquid tempera paint
- Craft sticks
- Butcher paper
- Plastic wrap (optional)

Instructions

1. Pour paint into ice cube tray.
2. Put a craft stick into the middle of each paint cube. If the sticks don't stand up use some plastic wrap and poke them through.
3. Place the ice cube tray in the freezer and only remove when the paint is frozen solid.
4. Once the ice cubes are frozen you can take them out of the tray and start to paint.

Tip!

Make the paint ice cubes the day before so they are ready to go.

Extension of the activity

- Teach your child about mixing colours.
- Freeze green and red paint cubes and then let your child discover what results from using those colours together.
- As they melt, the paints will magically mix into yellow!



BABY

Activity #3

Tummy Time

Why?

Sensory bags enable babies to push, slap or squeeze the contents of the bags without spilling paint, water or food colouring over their clothes! By doing this the young child is developing their attention span, practicing hand-eye coordination and using their sense of touch to take in new information. The brain's ability to accurately receive, interpret and respond to sensory information is an important foundation for new learning and skill development.

What you need?

- 1 large resealable bag 27x35cm
- A tray of ice cubes frozen the day before
- Wide masking tape
- Tummy time mat

Tip!

If you are concerned about the bag leaking, use two resealable bags inside each other.

Instructions

1. Place the tray of ice cubes inside the large resealable bag and seal closed.
2. Put the sensory bag on floor in front of the tummy time mat.
3. Use the wide masking tape to securely tape the sensory bag to the floor.
4. You can also tape the sensory bag to the tray of a high chair or table top.

Information sourced from:

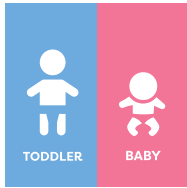
candokiddo.com/news/2014/10/1/sensory-bags-for-itty-bitty-babies

Extension of the activity

- Tape the sensory bag to the front of a dishwasher or refrigerator.
- Before you freeze the ice cubes put small plastic animals inside to catch your child's interest.
- Other fillings for sensory bags can be dry leave or flowers, water beads, pom poms, seashells or glitter glue.



Playgroup



Activity #4

Making Bubbles

Why?

Bubbles are a great source of delight for children. Bubble play is a socially interactive and infectious activity that brings children and babies together. When babies and children chase bubbles, they are developing gross motor skills. When babies and children blow bubbles, they are developing mouth muscles and speech sounds.

What you need?

- 1/4 cup glycerine
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 tablespoon liquid detergent
- Bubble blowers
- Container or tray

Instructions

1. Make up bubble solution and pour into a container.
2. Blow the bubbles at the babies. They will enjoy watching the bubbles float and pop; some may try to reach for them (depending on the baby's age).
3. Older children and toddlers can either try blowing bubbles or chase after them trying to catch them.

Tip!

Commercial bubble solution can be bought to save time.



Extension of the activity

- To colour the bubbles, add some vegetable dye to the solution.
- Add bubble mixture to your next water play activity. Stir up the water. The bubbles make a great addition to pouring games or pretend play with boats and toy marine animals.
- Watch the bubbles and talk about them, use words like float, round, rainbow and sparkle.
- Encourage the children to catch the bubbles and introduce sound words like 'pop'. Blow the bubbles up high and encourage the children to use words like jump, stretch and catch. You can also talk about the different colours the bubbles make as they float around the room.



BABY

Activity #5

Fun With Water Play

Why?

Babies are more likely to express themselves with sounds and body movements than identifiable language, so it is more noticeable when they say a word that expresses their feelings, intentions or knowledge. Watching and listening to babies is the best way to notice their development. This activity offers the opportunity for babies to become familiar with new vocabulary, problem solve as they manipulate the water play objects and develop their hand-eye coordination skills.

What you need?

- Water trough, clam shell or a tub
- Toy tug boats, corks, flowers, small buckets or other items that will float
- Just enough water for the water play objects to float

Tip!

Constant supervision of children when playing with water is essential.

Instructions

1. Place a low water trough on the floor or ground.
2. Fill with enough water to float small objects such as toy boats, corks, flowers.
3. Parents/carers can sit with their babies just outside the trough, supervising them closely, while babies reach into the trough and splash, make waves, and extending themselves to reach the floating objects.



Extension of the activity

- Introduce some small plastic jugs and beakers to the babies' play – just be prepared to have water all over the floor!
- Sing songs like, Here is the Sea, or make up your own while the babies are having fun splashing.
- Ask open-ended questions, "what does this feel like?" when pouring water over their feet or hands.
- Singing songs introduces rhythm and patterns. Use language like splosh, splash, big, small, full and empty.



Activity #6

Spray Bottle Painting

Why?

This experience combines sensory, physical and creative play all in the one activity. With this experience a child's hand-eye coordination and concentration improves and they can discover how colours combine to make other colours. The activity also encourages children to manipulate objects, problem solve, develop their decision-making skills and experiment with cause and effect.

What you need?

- Spray bottles with a squeeze action trigger
- Thick paper or an old sheet
- Assorted paint colours
- Easels or fence space
- Pegs or bull dog clips
- Water
- Aprons or old shirts

Instructions

1. If possible, set the easels up outdoors in a shaded place.
2. Peg or clip the thick paper to one side of the easel or on to a fence.
3. Fill the spray bottles with an assortment of paint colours. Add water to thin paint if needed.
4. Then children aim at the painting paper and squirt. Put in the sun to dry.

Tip!

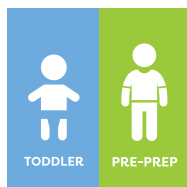
Watercolour and tempera paints are both washable with just a bit of soap and water.



Extension of the activity

- Fill spray bottles with clear water and find a concrete path or wall for the children to squirt the water on to. This activity supports children's understanding of cause and effect as the water dries and disappears.
- Spray bottle tag is great for those warm summer days. Everyone has a spray bottle with water, they try and squirt the person that is 'it'.
- Take a walk around the yard or nearest park and collect a variety of nature items such as leaves, flowers or small twigs. These can be arranged on the painting paper ready for the children to apply the spray bottle paint. Remove nature items and have the children observe the outline that remains.

Information sourced from: firefliesandmudpies.com/squirt-gun-painting/
thesmokies.momexplores.com/spray-bottle-nature-art-with-science-extension/
inspirationmadesimple.com/2016/05/painting-with-spray-bottles/



Activity #7

Magnetic Ice Fishing

Why?

Children develop many skills through hands-on play. While playing the magnetic ice fishing activity children will be developing their spatial awareness, hand-eye coordination and their fine motor muscles in their hands and fingers. This activity also provides opportunities for children to extend their vocabulary, problem solve and learn about cause and effect.

What you need?

- Magnetic discs
- Magnetic wand or magnets tied to string
- Ice cube trays
- Assorted paint colours
- Water
- Tray or baking dish

Instructions

1. Put a small amount of paint in bottom of ice cube tray, half fill with water, stir to mix paint through.
2. Place the magnetic discs in the ice cube tray and top up with extra water (if needed).
3. Freeze the ice cube tray until frozen. This may need to be done the day before.
4. When frozen, empty the magnetic ice cubes on to a tray or into a baking dish.
5. Using the magnetic wand or magnets tied to string the children are now all set to go magnetic ice fishing!

Tip!

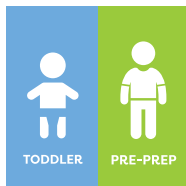
Supervising children when using magnets is essential.



Extension of the activity

- Get children to collect shells when they are at the beach and they can paint them different colours. Glue a magnetic disc on to the shell, now you have a colour recognition fishing game.
- Have the children collect a range of different objects from indoors and outdoors that they can then sort into baskets by being magnetic or non-magnetic. This is an early classification learning experience.

Information sourced from: kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/outdoor-activities/18-fun-water-activities-to-make-summer-go-with-a-splash/image-gallery/59a2ef43a5a3ea4cf383be444e847fa3?image=11
cleverstuff.com.au/blogs/news/magnetic-play-why-is-it-important
littlebinsforlittlehands.com/magnetic-ice-science-activity-ice-magnet-play-kids-stem/



Activity #8

Ice Treasure Hunt

Why?

This activity provides opportunities for children to extend their vocabulary, problem solve, develop finger motor skills, understand cause and effect and work as a team to free the special treasures from the ice block.

What you need?

- Block of ice with treasures frozen inside (e.g., plastic animals, plastic cars, Duplo blocks, toy flowers anything you can find that will interest children)
- Large tray or water trough
- Small bowls of salt coloured with food colouring
- Another bowl with coloured water
- Large plastic syringes
- Digging tools like, strong plastic spoons or plastic spatulas
- Container to put the treasures in when they are freed from the ice block

Instructions

1. Go on a treasure hunt and find items to freeze. The day before place all the treasures in a large plastic container and freeze overnight.
2. Tip the ice block out of its container into a large tray or water trough.
3. Place the coloured salt, coloured water, digging tools and large plastic syringes near the tray or water trough.
4. Children will use these to melt and soften the ice to free the treasures.
5. Encourage the children to sprinkle the coloured salt on the ice block, squirt water on to the ice block using the large plastic syringes and use their digging tools to chip away at the ice block.
6. Watch their enthusiasm when they get a special treasure free of the ice.

Tip!

Let the ice block sit for a few minutes to loosen from the container before tipping into the water trough.



Extension of the activity

Try making a larger ice block and freezing toy dinosaurs in it.

Information sourced from: happyhooligans.ca/ice-age-bin/

