



## SUCTION SCIENCE

### Materials you need:

- Books, pictures and/or videos to learn more about animals that use suction to attach themselves to things like rocks.
- A selection of items that demonstrate how suction works – hooks with suction cap, plungers, baskets with suction cups, non slip bathmats with small suction pads on bottom.
- Metal tray or glass chopping board

### Setup for play:

- Sit down with the children and place a tray with the suction items in front of them. Encourage the children to investigate and try to stick the suction cups to the metal tray or glass.
- Talk about octopuses and how they use the suction on their arms. Try to find more animals using the books and audio visual tools.
- Use everyday objects like vacuums, syringes and straws to demonstrate suction and how it works. [Use some of these easy ideas](#) to help children become active hands on learners.

## What are they learning with this activity?

As the children explore the concept of suction they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Listen to and follow directions
- Work together in a group with others
- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators
- Experiment with cause and effect
- Broaden their understanding of the world
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and observation

## Extending the play:

- [Watch this You tube video about the Octopus](#) then encourage the children to do their own drawing of an octopus.
- Use straws to see if you can suction up and hold a small pompom or feather.

