



THE FLOATING SCARF

Materials you need:

- A few lightweight scarves (op shops always have them out cheaply)
- Music (optional)

Setup for play:

- This one is so simple but babies and toddlers love it!!
- Simply throw a scarf up into the air and then encourage babies to reach out and catch it (you might need to hold their arms up and out to help them catch a few and get used to the movement first). Toddlers will enjoy jumping and running to try and catch the scarves.
- Add more scarves and help the children to throw them up in the air themselves. If you have different coloured scarves you might ask who can catch the 'red one' etc.
- You might like to play some 'floaty' or 'fast' music to add to the fun.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children reach toward and catch the scarves they are learning to:

- Work together in a group with others
- Listen to and follow directions
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Coordinate and strengthen their large muscles as they bend, stretch, turn and balance.
- Use fine motor skills to grasp
- Recognise basic colour recognition concepts
- Track with their eyes to look at a moving object.
- Concentrate on and persist with a task.
- Understand cause and effect, force and motion.

Extending the play:

- Drag a scarf along the ground for the crawlers to try and catch.
- Tie the scarves together and place in an ice cream container with a hole in the lid. Show the babies how to pull on the scarves to make them come out of the hole.



