



OUTDOOR TINKER WALL

Materials you need:

- A fence, wall or other vertical space the children can build on and tie materials to.
- Lots of loose parts and recycled materials to tinker with! Pipe offcuts, wood, corrugated pipe, pallets, foil and plastic trays, material, foam, bubble wrap, cardboard rolls, buckets, balls, gutters, twist ties, rope, large hooks, wall planters, soft drink bottles.... whatever you can collect!

Setup for play:

- Gather the recycled materials together in a pile outside near the wall space or fence.
- Ask the children if they have any ideas of how to use the materials to build a ball run or a water wall if it's warm. Decide on first steps and make a plan together. It will evolve as they tinker but that's the fun part!
- Show the children how to attach tubes, piping and other materials with cable or twist ties.
- Join in if asked for help but step back as much as you can and allow the children to get creative, experiment and problem solve independently.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children choose their materials and begin building 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
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Recognise symbols and how things can represent other things
- Coordinate and strengthen their large muscles as they bend, stretch, turn.

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- Express themselves creatively
- Problem solve and make decisions to meet their needs
- Persist even when they find the task difficult
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Experiment with cause and effect
- Manipulate objects to explore motion, cause and effect
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.

Extending the play:

- Encourage the children to continue tinkering and building out onto the ground using the materials. Can they make a tunnel, bridge, river?
- Add some smaller recycled items, tools, screws, nails etc to a few oven trays and encourage children to tinker and create indoors as well on a smaller scale.
- Add the pipes, gutters, buckets and balls to a sand or water tub sensory area to see what they can create.

