



## COLOURED PING PONG PUDDLE

### Materials you need:

- Rainy day puddles outside (or dig a hole in the dirt and pour in some water!)
- Packet of coloured ping pong balls (or the larger lightweight coloured balls if working with a younger group) Ensure 3-4 different colours.
- Tongs, claw grab sticks (handle with the claw grab on the end – find in \$2 shops) or ladles
- Timer
- Bucket or bowl to collect balls in.

### Setup for play:

- Find or make your large puddle (or a couple of smaller ones works too)
- Add coloured balls to the puddle – enough for at least 1-2 per child playing at that time.
- Assign each child a colour to find then set the timer (don't make it too short or do without for younger players)
- The child who picks up the most balls with their tongs or claw grab stick in their colour before the timer runs out wins that round!

### What are they learning with this activity?

As the children participate in the game they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Identify, name and sort colours
- Persist even when they find a task difficult
- Listen to and follow directions
- Coordinate and strengthen their large muscles as they bend, stretch, turn and balance.

### Extending the play:

- Try adding more challenges by increasing the number of balls or reducing the time and observe what happens.
- Add the balls to goop in large tubs and see who can pick their ball out of the 'mud' using just tongs!

