



## PLASTIC HOOP PLACES

### Materials you need:

- 5 Hula Hoops (size doesn't matter)
- Numbers 1-5 drawn on cardboard or paper squares
- Collection of rocks and small sticks (collect together before doing this activity)

### Setup for play:

- Put the hoops around the yard – not all together!
- Add a number card to the middle of each hoop and the buckets of sticks and stones in a central area of the yard.
- Ask the children to work together as a group to place the correct number of natural items in the number hoops.
- Alternatively you can call out names and a number and that child has to race to the middle to choose their materials then run to the hoop. As each child has their turn and more items are added to the hoops make number groups of natural elements within the hoop.
- After the game leave the hoops and stones out for the children to play with on their own.

### What are they learning with this activity?

As the children run to the hoops, choose their materials and count them out 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 and run.
- Recognise basic counting and number concepts
- Use their senses to explore and choose natural materials

### Extending the play:

- Tie the hoops to a clothesline, pass out some small balls and encourage children to aim and throw balls through the hoops as they move around.
- Line hoops up on the ground with a small space in between each one. Jump in and out of the hoops with two feet together.