



STACK IT UP GAME

Materials you need:

- Plastic drink and coffee cups of different sizes
- Sheets of thin card cut into different sizes
- Wooden Blocks or planks
- Timer
- Flat, stable spaces to build on.

Setup for play:

- Add all the cups, cardboard sheets and wooden planks to a table or out on the grass.
- Spilt the children into 2-4 groups (depending on numbers of children you have) then explain to the children that they are going to race to build the highest tower with the cups. They can use the cards and planks to help them stack as high as they can in 2 minutes.
- The winning team is the one with the highest stacked cup tower when the timer runs out. Use a tape measure and record measurements.
- Take turns with different leaders and do 'best of 3-5' competitions using the measurements to confirm a winning team!

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children stack their cups in teams they are learning to:

- Listen to and follow directions
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Coordinate and strengthen their large muscles as they bend, stretch, turn and stack.
- Negotiate roles, responsibilities and relationships
- Use hand/eye coordination skills, balance and coordinate large muscle movements
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Use language and sound to communicate their thinking
- Recognise their individual achievements and successes – show pride in their work
- Recognise the contributions they make to shared projects and experiences
- Show increasing independence and competence
- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve

Extending the play:

- Set up the cups to use as ten pins and create bowling teams. Encourage the children to come up with a 'logo' and name for their bowling team. Provide paper, pens and pencils for brainstorming.
- Add ping pong balls and pom poms to the cups. Use to throw and catch. Throw the balls into the air and try to catch in the cup. You can play this game in pairs or just let children challenge themselves in their own space.