



JAR LID BOAT RACES

Materials you need:

- Clean jar or milk bottle lids from the recycle bin.
- Blu tack
- Craft matchsticks or drinking straws cut into halves (thirds if using smaller milk bottle lids).
- Small square sheets of coloured paper (the origami paper bundle packs work well).
- Pens for decorating.
- Water tub or tray for testing boats.

Setup for play:

- Lay out all materials on an easily accessible group table.
- Explain to children that they will be creating their own boat that needs to float. Show how to pinch off a ball of blu tack and press into middle of upturned lid. This will hold the sail 'mast'.
- Cut the square paper to form triangles. Depending on size of the paper you provide they may need to consider whether to keep cutting to form smaller triangles – this will be the sail.
- Children can decorate their sails to personalise and stand out in the water race.
- Wrap the flat edge of the triangle paper sail around the stick or straw and stick with a little glue or tape. Let the children decide what material they feel will work best.
- Press the stick mast into the blu tack then take over to the water to test and race!

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children make their sailboats they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Work independently on a project
- Use descriptive language
- Express their ideas creatively to help make meaning
- Understand basic position concepts
- Listen to and follow directions
- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve

Extending the play:

- Did your boat float? If it didn't why do you think that is and what could you change?
- Bring out the recycle bin and ask children to choose something different to a lid that they feel might work. Plastic containers, corks and the bottoms of soft drink bottles all work well. What natural materials could you use instead?
- Provide small twigs, cut straws and rubber bands and encourage the children to use just those materials to build a raft that will float when put into the water!

