



RAIN GAUGE FUN

Materials you need:

A fun project for capturing and measuring rainfall!

- All you need is a washed water or soft drink bottle. 600 ml size works well for little hands. Try and collect enough to make one for each child so they can also take home and use.
- Remove the label.
- Food colouring or edicol dye (optional)
- Permanent marker

Setup for play:

- Cut around the body of the bottle around 3cm from the top.
- Turn this piece over and place inside the other part of the bottle (see picture below).
- Show the children how to draw lines around the bottles at regular intervals with a permanent marker then measure and add the number in centimetres with the children.
- Add a little edicol dye in the bottom of each bottle – this just colours the rainwater and makes it easier for the children to measure.
- Now place out in the rain and watch it fill!

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What are they learning with this activity?

As the children make their rainwater gauge and then measure and record they are learning to:

- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- Broaden their understanding of the world
- Use play to investigate and explore new ideas
- Make predictions and generalisations about aspects of the natural world around them
- Use their senses to explore the natural environment
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and experimentation
- Ask questions and make predictions based on their observations
- Measure and compare length and volume.

Extending the play:

- Brainstorm as a group a few different ways you might use the collected rainwater.
- While it is raining spread some sheets of cardboard out on the grass, sprinkle a little of the edicol dye onto the sheets and watch the rain drop onto the card to create art. Talk about how the colours are being formed and mixing together to create new colours.

