



SHADOW PLAY

Materials you need:

- Sunny Day
- A collection of different width and length sticks

Setup for play:

- Walk outside together on a sunny day and choose a stick
- Show the children how to turn toward the sun and hold their sticks so they cast shadows.
- Can they make them move? Are they big or small? Thick or thin?
- What type of shadow creature can they make if they hold a few sticks together in different ways?

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children create shadows with their sticks they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and increase their spatial awareness
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Use descriptive language
- Become aware of similarities and differences
- Use their senses to explore natural materials

Extending the play:

- Place a large stick in the dirt or grass in a large open area that gets the sun most of the day. Ask the children to help you mark the shadow with chalk then come back in the afternoon, mark it again and discuss the changes!