



POOL NOODLE NAME TOWER

Materials you need:

Pool noodle name towers are an easy way to combine literacy with a little engineering. It is perfect for children who enjoy learning through movement and play!

- Pool noodles cut into pieces (approx. 10 cm long)
- Permanent markers
- Cards with children's first name written on them in lower case font.
- A table or stable surface to build on

Setup for play:

- Write letters (lower case) on the pool noodle pieces and spread out on the floor so children can easily see the letters.
- Spread the name cards out on the floor near the noodle pieces.
- Ask the children to find their name card then they can choose the noodle letters they need (try and have enough for everyone to do their name at once or you will need to take turns instead)
- Stack the noodles to form their name using the correct letters to match the card. If you have children who find it difficult to stack the noodles while arranging letters you could use a paper towel roll holder, so they can slide the noodles over the top.
- Some may also find it to challenging to go vertical to spell out their name, so you could encourage them to spread the noodle letters horizontally instead first then build up piece by piece.
- Make sure to have fun knocking all the names over then start again!

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children use the noodle letters to form their name correctly they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and increase their spatial awareness
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Recognise symbols and how things can represent other things
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people
- Explore the unique aspects of their identity through simple actions and play
- Recognise and write letters of their name and others as they play
- Use observational skills

Extending the play:

- Call out simple 3 letter words for the children to make with the noodles – cat, sat, sun etc
- Write numbers on the pool noodle pieces and stack towers to count to 10.
- Add a coloured sticker to each noodle piece and sit with hole facing up. Provide small coloured pompoms and tweezers and encourage children to pick up the coloured balls and match to the noodles.

