

A WORD ABOUT ACTIVITY MATERIALS USED IN THE OUTLINES

There is no need for expensive equipment or resources to keep children engaged, nurtured and challenged.

The activities in this planner use simple everyday items that you probably already have in the cupboard, or that can be brought cheaply from the \$2 shop and other discount stores. It just takes a little creativity to save money and provide the types of experiences that are easy to setup and allow educators to actually spend time focusing on the children and their play.

As you use the suggested activities from the planners please keep in mind that all children develop at different paces and it is up to you as the educator to make an informed decision on the materials and experiences that best suit the children you have in care, and your own level of comfort with certain materials. Common sense and close supervision is always required with young children, so please act accordingly.

I believe the activities and materials I have shared in this planner are all safe and I have personally tried every single one out over the years with all age groups including babies and toddlers, 3-5's and school age children in my care, but ultimately you must take your own environment, level of experience, children's allergies, service requirements, philosophy and capacity to supervise into account.

If you can't source the specified materials needed for an activity you have chosen, it should be easy to simply swap for something you do have. There are no rules and I'm all for sustainability and not buying resources if you don't have to, so try and think outside the box a little and use something similar on the 'resource cupboard essentials' list you can find below, or just reuse a resource you already have in a different way.

You can use the 'extending the play' section in the activity guides to not only help with forward planning, but to also give you suggestions for using the same materials in different ways to save time and money.

Create, Modify, Play!

EMPOWERED EDUCATOR RESOURCE CUPBOARD ESSENTIALS

You can collect or buy most of these resource cupboard essential items for very little money or for free! Look for resources at your local supermarket, discount shop, op shop, or in the recycling. If you have these items in your cupboard you'll always have the essential resources you need for lots of play and education.

- Recycle Bin filled with paper, cardboard, plastic containers, lids, tins, jars, cardboard rolls, newspaper, old wrapping paper.
- Plastic plates, cups, bowls—real sizes.
- Baby bowls, cups, bottles, spoons suitable for play.
- Scarves, silks, gauzy light fabrics.
- Old net curtains (no large holes).
- Large appliance or moving boxes.
- Wool, string, twine, elastic, rubber bands, ribbons, netting.
- Big and small baskets, shoe-boxes.
- Cushions, pillows, mats, towels.
- Balls of different shapes and sizes.
- Soft and hard blocks—different sizes.
- ESSENTIAL - [Cornflour Paint base](#).
- ESSENTIAL- Cellmix Powder/Mix-a-paste
- ESSENTIAL - Edicol vegetable powder paint dyes. They can be used to colour play dough, cornflour paint base, pasta, sand, added to water and you only need a pinch! Most educational supply stores sell in small and large tubs.
- Bubble Wrap
- Saucepans, saucepan lids, cake tins.
- Cellophane, tissue paper, paper towel.
- Microwave play dough - Find my easy recipe [on the blog HERE](#).
- Leaves, twigs, greenery, flowers.
- Socks - adult and child size.
- Fruit & Vegetables.
- Stones, pebbles, gems.
- Material and felt remnants.
- [Soapy Slime](#)
- Recycled water & juice bottles.
- Kitchen utensils and gadgets.
- Spoons of different sizes & textures.
- Real kitchen items from op shops.
- Adult and child sized shoes for play.
- Handbags, sunglasses, hats.
- Baby clothes.
- Cotton buds, large straws, cotton balls.
- Dry beans, rice, spaghetti, pasta (optional for those who prefer not to use food based materials).
- Toothbrushes, dish mops, scourer pads, shaving brushes, combs, squeegees.
- Cars, trucks, animals.