



Summer Outdoor Learning Activities

Even if the weather isn't perfect, summer is a great time for outdoor learning. Here are some great ideas to try with your little ones this summer. Just remember a hat and sunscreen if it is warm!

Paint some stones: On a trip to the beach, collect some large, smooth pebbles in different colours. Paint them with normal ready-mixed paint, and then paint a layer of PVA glue over the top to protect them and make them shiny.

Visit a fruit farm: Children love picking (and eating) their own fruit, and what you manage to bring back can be turned into ice pops (freeze in moulds with juice) or eaten with cream or ice cream. You could also talk about the different tastes and colours of the fruit.

Create a beach day in your back garden: Fill a paddling pool, get out of the house and buy a bag of play sand from the DIY store. Use old kitchen utensils, yogurt pots and other containers to make sandcastles and sculptures.

Go on a sensory walk. Stop occasionally to talk about what you can see, hear, feel and smell.

On a sunny day, make a sundial. Choose a strong, sturdy stick and push it upright into the ground, somewhere that is in the open sun. Once the time hits the hour, use a marked stone or write the time on the ground at the end of the stick's shadow. You can then carry on marking the time at hourly intervals to create your very own sundial. Use it the next day to tell the time.

Mix sand with paint and create a beach picture with lots of lovely texture. Add some shells and brightly coloured scraps of paper to make deckchairs, kites and sunbathers!

Go on a walk in the country and collect a posy of wild flowers. Remember to be respectful of the environment, and avoid picking anything which may be poisonous. Bring the flowers home and arrange them beautifully in a vase. Alternatively, press the flowers in layers of kitchen roll between the pages of a heavy book.

Take a camera out with you on a walk and take photos to represent the colours of the rainbow - blue sky, green grass, purple berries, etc. Print the photos off and create a rainbow collage.

Make salt trails: Dissolve a few teaspoons of salt into a cup of water, then use this to paint patterns onto a piece of coloured paper. Leave to dry in the sun and you will reveal beautiful salt trails.