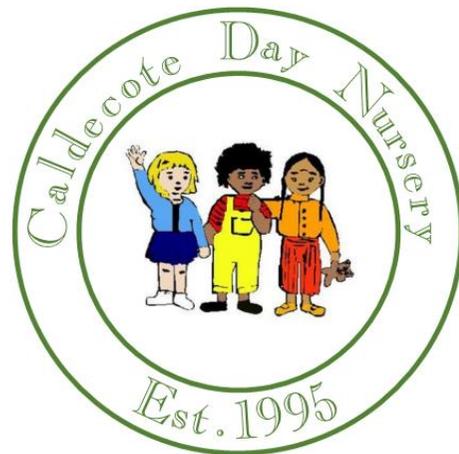


Caldecote Day Nursery



Home Learning Ideas

Eighth Edition



Paper Plate Snails

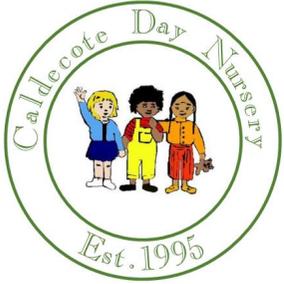
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

Activity: Develop fine motor skills to create a spiral for a snail.

Materials: Paper plate, pencil, beads, coins, bottle tops, dried peas or any other small item to decorate.

Learning: Draw a spiral shape on a paper plate to create the shell for a snail. Encourage your child to place (or stick) items on to the plate, following the spiral shape. Why not use a repeating pattern of beads or see if you can count all the beads? Start with larger objects and work down to smaller ones to develop that pincer grip. Why not place the items with tweezers for a more difficult challenge?





Paper Person Biology

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Draw around a child and learn about parts of the body.

Materials: Large paper (old wallpaper roll) pencils, collage materials.

Learning: Draw around your child and help them to identify parts of the body. For younger children this may involve cutting out and sticking (or placing) parts such as eyes, nose or mouth. Using a mirror to locate parts of their body or looking, counting them and talking about hair colour for example, adding this in a matching colour collage material, in the correct place. For older children, do some research and learn about internal organs, marking these on the body and learning about the function of each.





Art to Music

Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Create some art using a variety of colours and media.

Materials: Some music, paper and any other art materials.

Learning: Select a variety of music. Music of different genres, music with a fast or slow tempo, music that is busy or music that is calm and soothing. Provide a variety of art materials and let your child choose to paint or draw whatever the music makes them. There is no right or wrong, they just create with the music playing in the background. Talk about what they have drawn, how they felt and if they have used specific colours, ask why...?





Handprint Fish Puppets

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

Activity: Use craft materials to make and decorate these puppets.

Materials: Card, pens, collage materials, lolly sticks.

Learning: Help your child to draw and cut around their hand on card or thick paper. Are they able to hold the pencil well? Are they using scissors correctly? Once complete, use collage materials to decorate and then attach a lolly stick. Have an 'under the sea' puppet show or sing songs like 'One, two, three, four, five, once I caught a fish alive...'





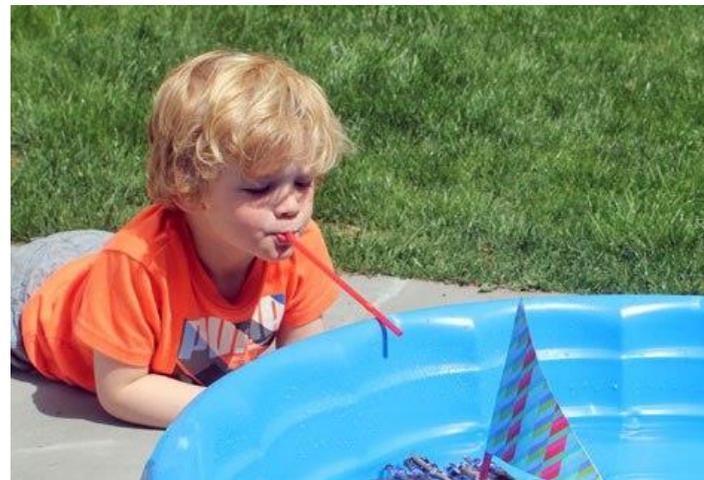
Mini Cork Boats

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

Activity: Make a mini boat and have races or learn about floating

Materials: Corks, rubber bands, cocktail sticks, paper or card for the sail.

Learning: Construct your mini boats and decorate the sail however you wish. Talk to your child about why the boat floats and does not sink. Try making boats from other materials and investigate if they float or sink? Place your boats in a washing up bowl, in an oven tray or in the paddling pool with water and have a race, using a straw to blow through as the wind power. Good Luck!





Mini Lid Banjos

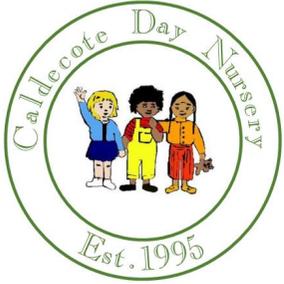
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Make some music with these simple banjos!

Materials: Various size lids from jars, elastic bands, wide lolly sticks or thick card, anything to decorate them.

Learning: Decorate your lolly stick or thick card using pens, pencils or collage materials. Wrap elastic bands around the lid and attach to the lolly stick. Pluck the elastic bands to make a sound. Talk about playing this quickly or slowly. Do different elastic bands make a different sound? Do different sized lids change the sound? Have fun making up songs and singing along to your banjo.





Tissue Box Monsters

Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Make these simple but effective monsters with tissue boxes.

Materials: An empty tissue box, collage materials, pens, pencils, glue.

Learning: Use the opening of the tissue box to make a mouth, adding teeth or a tongue. Be as creative as you like to make your monster scary, funny or perhaps just cute! Add two (or more!) eyes, crazy hair and decorate the box however you like. Use it to keep your bits and bobs safe or use as a puppet to create a show! Make more than one and give them their own personality. Talk about the features of the monster, ask why your child has chosen to use what they have and even think of a suitable monster name!





Firework Painting

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

Activity: Use cardboard tubes to make firework pictures.

Materials: Cardboard tubes, scissors, paper, paint.

Learning: Carefully using scissors snip the cardboard tube so that the end fans out. Put paint onto a plate or tray and dip the cut end into the paint before printing. Use a range of colours on paper to create different circular, firework prints. Make large or small circles by snipping further down the tube. By snipping different widths around the tube you can experiment with the pattern of the fireworks.





Pasta Butterflies

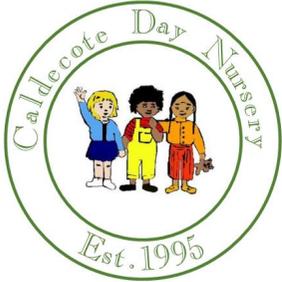
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Use farfalle pasta to make these little butterflies.

Materials: Farfalle pasta, paint, pens, pipe cleaners.

Learning: Decorate and paint dried farfalle pasta to make butterflies. Use them on paper or card to create artwork. Why not use some pipe cleaners to make the antenna and then use them for a counting activity. Decorate them in pairs and use them for a matching game.





Ice Cream in a Bag

Club Caldecote

Activity: Introduce basic science and make your own ice-cream at home.

Materials: 2 ziplock bags (one small and one large), 1 bag of ice, 250ml whole milk, 1 tbsp white sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp vanilla extract, 12 tbsp salt, tea towel or oven gloves.

Learning: Pour the milk, sugar and vanilla extract into the smaller bag and seal this closed. Add the ice and salt to the larger ziplock bag and place the smaller bag inside. Seal the large bag. Stir, shake and rattle the bag for around ten minutes. The bag will get very cold so use a tea towel or oven glove to protect your hands. Keep checking and soon you will have some delicious ice cream! The science bit...The salt added to the ice lowers the melting point of the ice, just like it does when we add salt to roads in the winter. In order for the ice to melt, however, it has to absorb heat from its surroundings like the ice cream in the bag. The ice pulls the heat away from the ice cream to melt which allows the ice cream to freeze.





Welly Walk

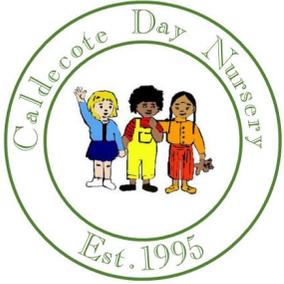
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

Activity: Get outdoors and go on a welly walk!

Materials: Wellington boots, puddles.

Learning: Everyone loves a welly walk so slip on some boots and go in search of some puddles! Allow your child to jump and explore the puddle, making big splashes or small ones. Walk through different textures, mud, grass or stones and see how this feels and sounds. If the weather is warm, why not get your wellies on and splash around in a paddling pool?





Cheerleading Ribbons

Babies / Toddlers

Activity: Make these simple ribbons to use in sensory play or dance.

Materials: Curtain ring or cardboard ring, ribbon or strips of scrap fabric.

Learning: This simple idea will provide lots of entertainment. Tie ribbon or scraps of fabric onto a ring and use this in cheerleading, dance or to just explore the textures, colours and patterns. Play different music and see how you and your child can move to the music.





Recycled Posting / Marble Run

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School



Activity: Use cardboard tubes to create your own posting station.

Materials: Cardboard tubes, tape, bottle tops, small balls.

Learning: Young children love posting items such as bottle tops. Create a posting wall to develop fine motor skills. Provide a variety of items to post or if you are feeling very brave, allow your child to develop their own scenario and use this to roll marbles or small balls down. Through trial and error they can see what works well, how they might need to line certain tubes up and experiment with different angles that make the balls travel faster or slower. We take no responsibility for tape on the walls though!





Paper Plate Pizza Maths

Toddlers / Pre-School



Activity: Practice some maths with pizza!

Materials: Paper plate, items to decorate.

Learning: This simple idea will help to develop 1:1 correspondence when counting the dots on the pizza and number recognition when matching the slice to the numeral. Divide the plate into how ever many sections you wish and create the same number of pizza slices on a second plate. Use spots to represent salami or tomato or something else of your choice and encourage your child to count the spots by touching a finger on each one. Encourage counting in a methodical way so they don't count the same spot twice. If they find that difficult, place a button or coin on each spot once counted so they know they have included it. Next match it to the numeral. You could always divide your pizza into 6 sections and turn this into a game by rolling a die and then matching the spot pattern to the pizza slice and then the plate. Make two pizza from 1-12 and use two dice to play!

