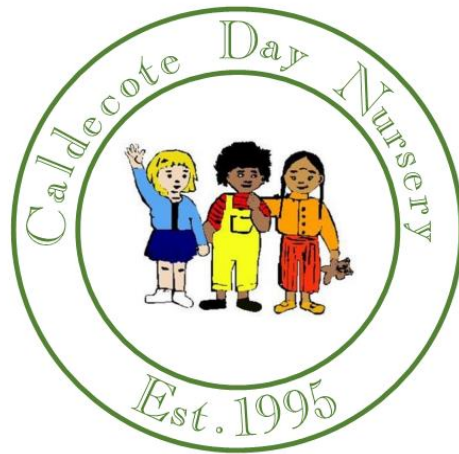
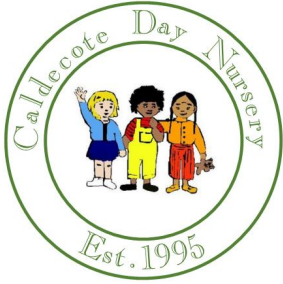


Caldecote Day Nursery



25 Home Learning Ideas

First Edition



Sensory Bottles

Babies / Toddlers

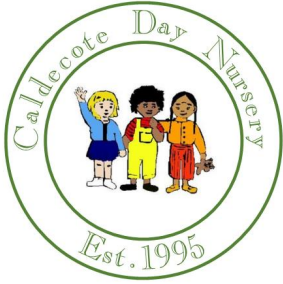


Activity: Use old plastic bottles or jars and fill them with a variety of objects to explore.

Materials: Bottles, jars, water, oil, glitter, rice, pasta, sequins, flowers, leaves, buttons, Lego...anything that will fit through the neck of the bottle.

Learning: Talk about hidden objects in rice; the colours; the sounds the bottles make when they are shaken; floating objects; sinking objects; shapes...the possibilities are endless!





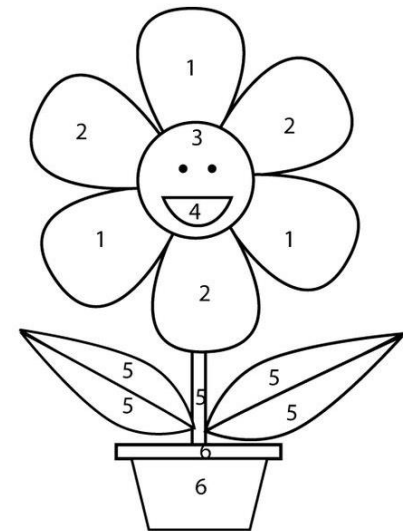
Colour by Number

Toddlers / Pre-School

Activity: Draw a simple picture or some shapes and divide them into sections to colour by number.

Materials: Scrap paper, colouring pencils / crayons.

Learning: Talk about numbers; encourage counting and number recognition; talk about colours and colour recognition.



1 - red, 2 - orange, 3 - yellow, 4 - pink, 5 - green, 6 - brown



Leaf Threading

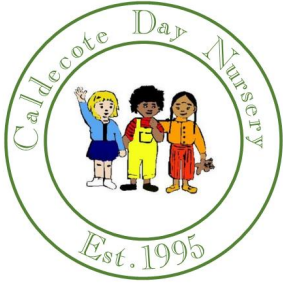
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

Activity: Collect leaves from the garden and thread them on to a thin twig or use a hole-punch to make holes and thread with string.

Materials: Leaves, hole-punch, twigs, string.

Learning: Excellent for fine motor skills; counting the leaves; talking about shapes, patterns, colours and size.





Sharing Books

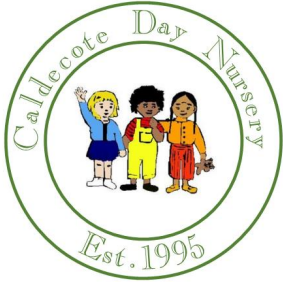
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Visit the library and collect some books or share some favourites from home.

Materials: Books.

Learning: Take some time each day to share a few books, not just at bedtime. Find a quiet space with no distractions such as the television, the radio or siblings! Read favourite stories; read new stories; make up new endings to familiar stories; join in with rhyming stories; talk about pictures; listen to an audio book or download a podcast. Older children could write a book review or act out a story.





Salt Dough

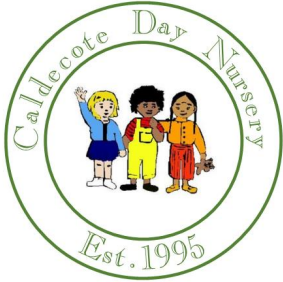
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Make crafts using a simple salt dough recipe which can be painted later.

Materials: 1 cup of flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of salt; $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water, paints, glitter, glue, food colouring, cutters, rolling pin. Mix dry ingredients and add water until dough is formed. Create models or decorations and then bake in the oven at 150°C for one hour. When cooled, decorate with paint or other materials.

Learning: Great for motor skills; talk about shapes, textures, tools; model into abstract or real-life items.





Play Dough

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Make home-made play dough to use again and again.

Materials: 2 cups plain flour, 1 cup salt, 2 tbsp vegetable oil, 2 tbsp cream of tartar, 2 cups boiling water, food colouring, food essence, microwave, microwavable bowl, wooden spoon. Add all the dry ingredients and food colouring / essence and stir vigorously until the mixture is a dough. Microwave for 30 seconds. When cooled, knead until smooth and pliable.

Learning: Great for motor skills; measuring ingredients; colours; textures; shapes; use for counting; model into numbers; combine with natural materials and resources; model into shapes or squish to develop finger strength; include loose parts to create sculptures; add different scents to stimulate senses.





Growing

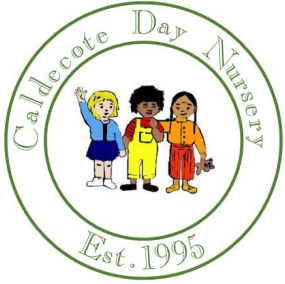
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Get in the garden or outside your front door and plant some seeds.

Materials: Compost, pots, seeds, bedding plants.

Learning: Talk about what plants need to grow; learn about how and where to plant seeds to give plants the best chance; water plants regularly and nurture them while at home; measure plants to see which are growing the fastest. Plant a seed or bean in a jam jar or stuck to a window in a food bag and watch the roots and shoots grow.





Play/Design a Board Game

Club Caldecote



Activity: Spend time playing a board game then design your own.

Materials: Board game, paper, card, felt tips, counters, dice.

Learning: Play a board game and then design your own or add some new rules to board game of your choice.





Junk Modelling

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Use recycled materials to create models.

Materials: Cardboard boxes, newspaper, cardboard tubes, egg boxes, bottle tops; tape, scissors, glue, paint...

Learning: Use tape or glue to join materials to create models; investigate or stack boxes to create towers and sculptures; develop cutting skills; explore materials, textures and sounds; finish with paint or other accessories.





Colour Mixing

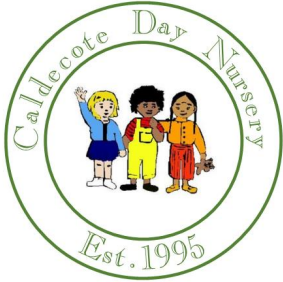
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Explore colours through colour mixing paint, activities.

Materials: Paint, paper, brushes, zip-lock food bags.

Learning: Provide primary colours (red, yellow, blue) paint and let children explore and investigate what happens. Older children may take a systematic approach and label as they go; younger children will mix and see what happens. Use zip-lock food bags filled with paint for mess-free play!





Edible Paint

Babies / Toddlers

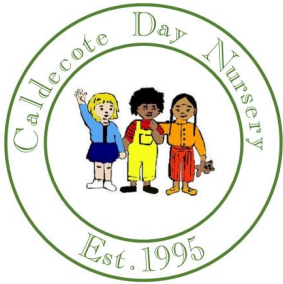


Activity: Use edible paint to get really messy!

Materials: 2 cups cold water, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cornflour, 3 tbsp sugar, food colouring, saucepan, wooden spoon, bowls. Mix the water, cornflour and sugar over a medium heat until thickened. Once thickened, divide into separate bowls and add food colouring to create as many colours as you fancy.

Learning: Use a brush to paint with or use as a whole body, sensory experience and really explore the paint, watching how the colours mix and talking about how it feels.





Rainbow Bread

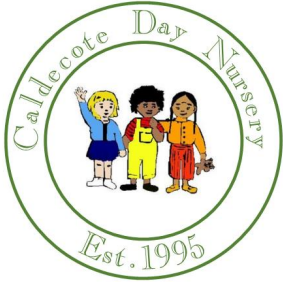
Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Use a clean paintbrush to decorate and then toast white bread for a sugary treat.

Materials: 1 tbsp of granulated sugar, 1 tsbp hot water, a squirt of food colouring. If the sugar has not totally dissolved, add a little more water. Decorate your bread in different styles and with different colours.

Learning: Try different designs and see if colours mix together; great for fine motor skills; teach older children to use a toaster!





Building Towers

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

Activity: Use wooden blocks to build towers.

Materials: Wooden blocks, stickers or a felt tip.

Learning: Work together to build the tallest tower you can; take turns to each place a block before the tower falls. Turn one block into a die with stickers or a felt tip pen, taking turns to roll it, counting the 'spots' shown and adding that number to the tower. Build two separate towers and count the blocks; how many more on one tower than the other? Combine two towers and complete some simple adding. Start with a tower of five or ten blocks, roll the die and take away the number shown; how many left?





Printing

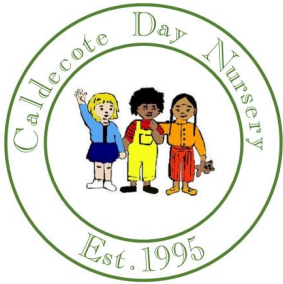
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

Activity: Use leaves, Lego, cardboard tubes, fruit, vegetables or any other materials to print and make pictures.

Materials: Paint, paper, printing materials.

Learning: Mix paint colours and use these to print using a variety of materials. Create repeating pattern, landscape pictures or even cards to deliver to friends and neighbours. Talk about colours; shapes; patterns and explore objects that print better than others.





Watch a Movie

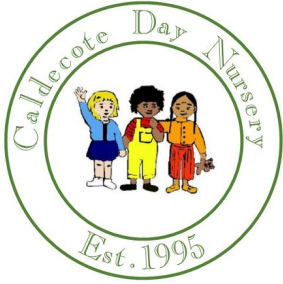
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Snuggle under a blanket with a snack and watch a movie together.

Materials: Movie, snacks, blankets.

Learning: Although too much screen time can be detrimental, there is nothing wrong with some family escapism, watching a movie together and enjoying a shared experience. Talk about the characters; what might happen next; favourite parts of the movie and ask why everyone enjoyed it.





Have a Disco

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Set up a Living Room disco and have a dance to some great music.

Materials: Favourite music.

Learning: Turn the lights off or close the curtains. Put on some party clothes or even fancy dress and have a dance! Clap along to the rhythm of the music; stamp your feet to the beat; share your favourite songs; learn dance routines; have a dance competition and sing along to songs.





Build a Den

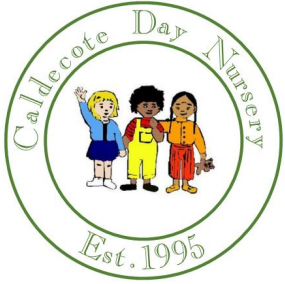
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Build a den in the house and enjoy some indoor camping.

Materials: Chairs, bedsheets, blankets, pegs, string / rope.

Learning: Use chairs or other furniture as the structure of your den and drape with blankets or bedsheets. Fill the den with books; writing and drawing materials, soft toys or other favourite activities. Role play adventures in the den; use it to have some quiet time or if you are feeling brave, camp out in it overnight!





Simple Cooking

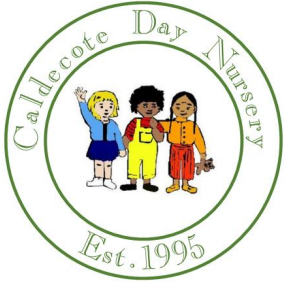
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Spend time together and share knowledge about cooking.

Materials: Whatever the recipe needs.

Learning: Baking cakes, chopping a fruit salad, making a sandwich, creating a pizza or mixing up a milkshake; there are lots of quick and easy recipes that children can do. Talk about weighing out ingredients; teach safe knife skills; promote good hygiene; use senses to talk about textures, taste and smells; try new foods or cook something using favourite ingredients.





Make an Obstacle Course

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

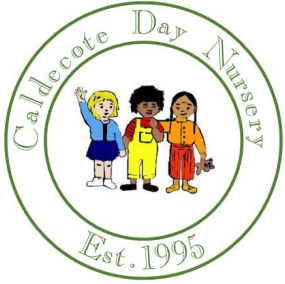


Activity: Use indoor or outdoor resources to make an obstacle course.

Materials: Whatever you have that be safely used, chairs, coffee table, cushions, rolled up blanket, balled-up socks as a ball, wastepaper bin, footballs, skipping rope.

Learning: Encourage physical development by creating an indoor or outdoor obstacle course. Encourage children to jump, hop, crawl, climb, throw and catch. Ask younger children to count how many jumps they can do; older children could time themselves and beat their fastest time.





Mini-Beast Hunt

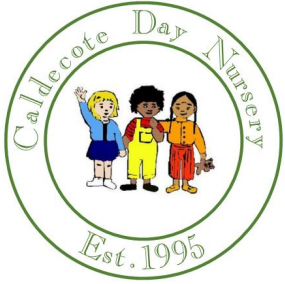
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Get outside and look in the garden for some mini beasts.

Materials: Jars / containers to collect mini beasts, shoebox to make a mini beast hotel.

Learning: Dig in soil, look under rocks or logs and collect mini beasts to explore and investigate. Look at their colours; count legs; talk about habitats; make a mini beast hotel for your garden to encourage more mini beasts. Extend this by sharing stories and songs about mini beasts.





Hide & Seek / Hide a Toy

Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

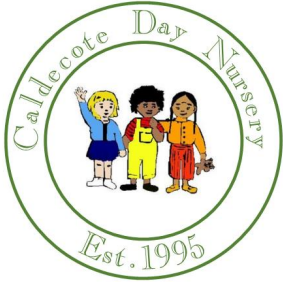


Activity: A classic rainy day game which can be extended.

Materials: A toy, if desired.

Learning: Play hide and seek around the house or in the garden. Extend this by hiding a soft toy; give clues to where it could be or use 'hot and cold' to steer them in the right direction.





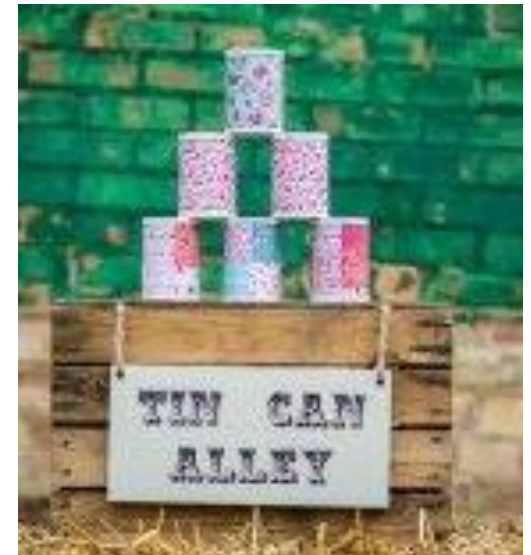
Tin Can Alley

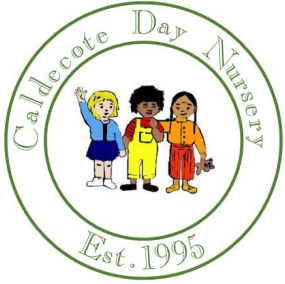
Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Use recycled tin cans to set up a game of tin can alley.

Materials: Tin cans, felt tips, paper, balled-up socks.

Learning: Decorate tins and add numbers, shapes or letters to enhance learning. Ask children to knock down the cans and talk about the numbers on the cans, add the numbers together or even multiply them. Create rules to set up point scoring and see who can get the biggest total.





Dressing Up

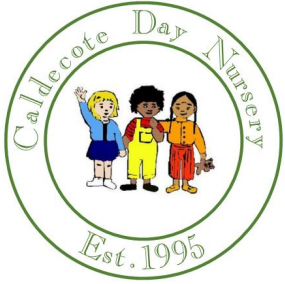
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Dress up in fancy dress or someone else's clothes.

Materials: A selection of clothes, shoes and accessories.

Learning: Dress up in a variety of clothes. Put on a fashion show or theme the dressing up to follow the interests of your child. Wear strange combinations of clothes or randomly pick items out of a basket to see what you get!





Cotton Bud Painting

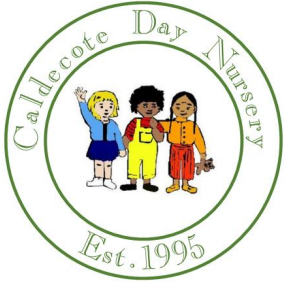
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Use cotton buds to paint with.

Materials: Paint, paper, cotton buds.

Learning: Great for fine motor skills, using cotton buds to paint and print with can be a challenge. Explore colours, textures, create simple representations or research famous pointillism artists and create a masterpiece!





Washing Up Bowl Water Play

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School



Activity: Enjoy water play in a sink or washing up bowl.

Materials: Bowl, water, cups, bottles, funnels, spoons, tubes, pipes.

Learning: Practise filling and emptying containers; talk about items that float or sink; make bubbles and splash!

