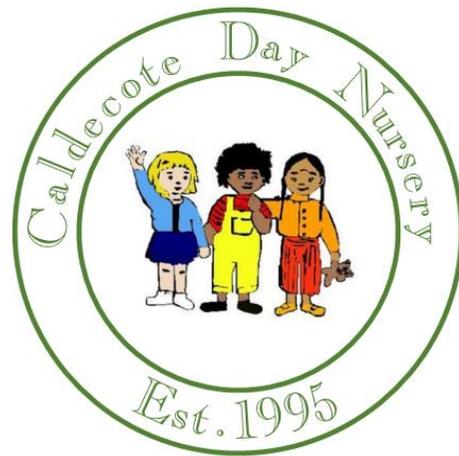


# Caldecote Day Nursery



# Home Learning Ideas

Seventh Edition



# Magnetic Fishing

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Make some fish and use a magnet to go fishing!

**Materials:** Paper, paperclips, string, a magnet, pens / pencils.

**Learning:** Cut out some paper or card fish and decorate with whatever your learning intention is...e.g. objects, colours, shapes, numbers, letter sounds, times tables, addition, subtraction questions...the list is endless. Attach a paperclip to the head of each fish and then fix a magnet to the end of some string. 'Go fishing' and hook a fish. Ask your child what it says on the fish. To challenge them, why not ask them to fish for a particular item, e.g. find the fish with a square or the colour blue.





# Fruit Smoothies

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Make a delicious fruit smoothie to get in those five a day.

**Materials:** A selection of fruits, milk or juice, ice (optional)

**Learning:** Ask your child to choose and chop some fruit to make a smoothie. Place them in a blender and whizz until smooth. Add ice for a really cold treat. If you have lots of mix leftover, freeze it in an ice lolly mould for another day.

## Works well with milk

Strawberries  
Raspberries  
Bananas  
Blueberries  
Kiwi  
Blackberries  
Cherries

## Works well with juice

Pineapple  
Mango  
Melon / Watermelon  
Peaches  
Kiwi  
Pears  
Oranges





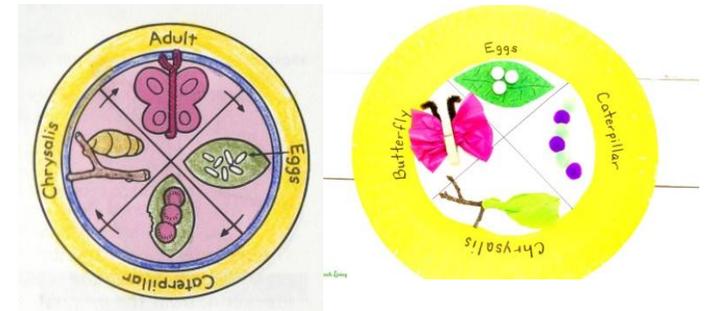
# Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Toddlers / Pre-School

**Activity:** Use a story to understand the lifecycle of a butterfly.

**Materials:** Paper plate, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, pens / pencils

**Learning:** Section your paper plate (or cardboard circle) into quarters. Read (or watch) the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar and draw an egg on the first quarter of the plate. Read on and talk about the caterpillar popping out. Draw this on the next quarter of the plate. Read on and talk about what happens next. Draw a cocoon on the third quarter. Finish the story and then draw a butterfly in the last section. Explain that the butterfly will lay an egg and the cycle will start again. Make this interactive by drawing and cutting out the pictures separately and asking your child to put them in the correct place in the cycle.





# Rainbow Spaghetti

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

**Activity:** Rainbow spaghetti is a great sensory play resource.

**Materials:** Spaghetti, food colouring, tools to play with.

**Learning:** While boiling spaghetti, add some food colouring to make it really colourful. Cook in batches to make a rainbow of colours. Manipulate with tools, tongs, bowls etc. Use as part of a small world scene or hide some objects amongst it all to find. Talk about colours and textures. Try and talk about the length of the spaghetti and compare pieces.





# Bottle Capacity

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

**Activity:** Talk about the capacity of bottles using simple mathematical terms.

**Materials:** Water in a tray or in the bath, recycled bottles with lines marked on each one, showing full,  $\frac{1}{2}$  full,  $\frac{1}{4}$  full,  $\frac{3}{4}$  full etc...

**Learning:** Play in the bath or in a tub of water outside. Ask your child to fill up the bottle to a level shown. Talk about adding more or less water. Repeat with an identical or similar bottle. Are they the same? Does one have more or less? Can they fill to the line? What is the capacity? What might be helpful to use (a funnel?) Have fun with filling and emptying, challenging your child to fill to a desired line.





# Marble Painting

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

**Activity:** A classic painting activity with a stunning effect.

**Materials:** Tray (or a clean, empty food tray), marbles or other small balls, paint and paper to fit the tray.

**Learning:** Place a piece of paper in the bottom of the tray. Dip a marble in paint and then place it in the tray, rolling it around from side to side. Repeat with other colours of paint to create a beautiful pattern.





# Muffin Tin Maths

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

**Activity:** Use a muffin tin and foil to create some maths fun!

**Materials:** Muffin tin, mini snacks, foil, pens.

**Learning:** Place some treats (raisins, sliced grapes, mini biscuits) in to each section of a muffin tray. Cover with foil and then draw a circle on top of each section. Write numbers, letters or whatever the learning focus is in each circle. Ask your child to find something on the tray. Once located, burst through the foil to find the treat.





# Car Ramps

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

**Activity:** Use recycled materials to make ramps for vehicles.

**Materials:** Cardboard or a short plank of wood, selection of vehicles.

**Learning:** Set up a ramp on a pile of books or at the bottom of the stairs. Decorate as a road, if desired. Use a selection of vehicles to push down the ramp. Set up races and see which vehicle travels the furthest. Use a tape measure or non-standard units of measure to see which one travelled the furthest.





# String Painting

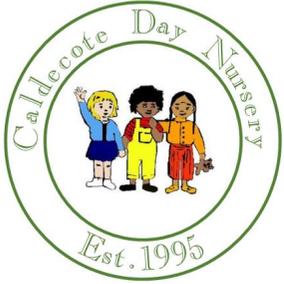
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Use string to create busy artwork.

**Materials:** Paint, paper, string.

**Learning:** Dip lengths of string into paint and drag it across paper to create patterns and lines. Dangle, pull or spin the string to create different effects. Fold paper in half, place the painted string on one half, fold the paper over and pull the string through to create symmetrical patterns. What can you see? What do they remind you of?





# Paper Aeroplane Targets

Club Caldecote



**Activity:** Take paper aeroplanes to the next level.

**Materials:** Paper, large piece of wallpaper or newspaper, pens, scissors.

**Learning:** Challenge yourself to some target practise with paper aeroplanes. Cut large holes in the newspaper and hang it in a door frame. Make the holes different sizes to make the activity more challenging. Perhaps label the holes with numbers on to keep score? Fly your paper aeroplane through the holes to build the total. Who can score the most? Play best of three or best of five! Challenge your opponents to see if they can hit specific targets...





# Indoor Tennis

Pre-School / Club Caldecote

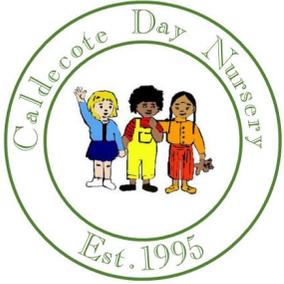


**Activity:** Have a game of indoor tennis!

**Materials:** Two chairs, broom handle or string for the net, a balloon.

**Learning:** Play a calmer game of tennis indoors. Set up the net and use a balloon as a ball. Try and keep the balloon in the air for as long as possible. Devise a scoring system and play matches against each other.





# Natural Picture Frame

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Take a walk outside and make a natural picture frame.

**Materials:** Cardboard frame, collected materials.

**Learning:** Go on a walk and make a collection of leaves, flowers, twigs and petals. Use glue or double sided tape to stick these onto the frame. If you are using tape, you could prepare the frame beforehand and take it on the walk, sticking items as you go. Talk about colours, shapes and textures. Identify any flowers or leaves that are added to the frame. Use the finished item to surround pictures and paintings or transient art.





# Funny Face Toast

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School



**Activity:** Have some fun making a healthy (ish) snack

**Materials:** Toast, a spread for the toast, banana, strawberries, blueberries.

**Learning:** Use fruit and a spread to make a fun and healthy snack. Chop and prepare all the fruit; show your child some images and ask them to recreate the faces on their bread. Can they tell what each animal is? What fruit works best to make eyes or a mouth? Once complete, enjoy eating it!





# Natural Paint

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Use vegetable and food scraps to make natural watercolour paint.

**Materials:** Onion skins, coffee, cabbage leaves, beetroot, grass

**Learning:** Chop, boil and squeeze the colour out of a range of foodstuffs to make natural and vibrant paint.

