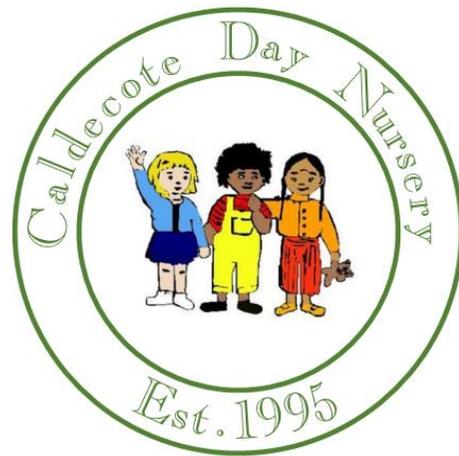
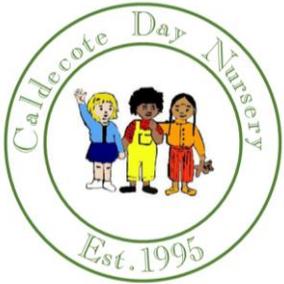


Caldecote Day Nursery



Home Learning Ideas

Sixth Edition



Plastic Bottle Wind Spinners

Pre-School / Club Caldecote



Activity: Use an old plastic bottle to create art for your garden.

Materials: Plastic bottles, pens, paint, string, scissors or Stanley knife.

Learning: Decorate a plastic bottle with paint, pens or even coloured tape. When complete, cut it into a spiral shape from the bottom to the top and use some string to hang it up. Experiment with different shapes and designs.





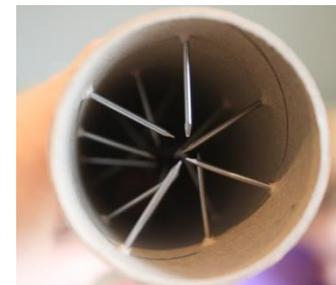
DIY Rain stick

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Make a rain stick to add to your instrument collection.

Materials: Cardboard tube, silver foil, rice or other dried food to go inside, paper, rubber bands, (small pins or cocktail sticks are optional!)

Learning: There are two methods to this. Either twist some foil into a spiral and place it inside your tube with your dried foods, securing each end with some paper and a rubber band. Or if you are feeling brave...use pins or cocktail sticks, pushed through the tube then decorate the outside using paper, stickers, tape or other collage materials.





Bubble Painting

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

Activity: Blow bubbles with paint and create a print.

Materials: Watered down paint or food coloured water, washing up liquid, bowl, straws, bubble wands and paper.

Learning: Mix water with the colourant and a spot of washing up liquid in a bowl. Blow bubbles into a bowl until they are almost spilling over and then use a piece of paper on top to capture the print. If you are worried that your child may suck instead of blowing, use a bubble wand and blow bubbles directly onto the paper. Talk about colour, shape and introduce basic science.





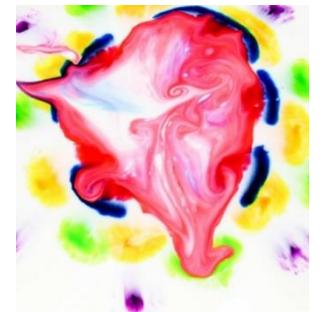
Magic Milk Experiment

Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Try some basic chemistry with this investigation.

Materials: Plate, full fat milk, food colouring, liquid soap, cotton buds.

Learning: Cover the bottom of a plate with a thin layer of milk. Next add drops of colour to the milk. Use a cotton bud to dip into the liquid soap and place this gently on the surface of the milk to see what happens. What is the science? Milk is made up of minerals, proteins, and fats. Proteins and fats are susceptible to changes. When the soap is added to the milk, those molecules run around and try to attach to the fat molecules in the milk. You wouldn't see this without the food colouring. The soap heads for the fats creating the cool bursting of colour. When there is no more movement, all the fat molecules have been found. Are there any more hiding?





Flower Transfer Art

Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: This is a really simple way to explore colour with flowers

Materials: Hammer, flowers, leaves, grass, paper.

Learning: Lay a collection of natural materials under a piece of paper and using a hammer, mallet or even the end of a rolling pin, give the paper a bash! This will allow the natural colours to come out of the flowers and plants, leaving a transfer on the paper. Experiment using different flowers; try different types of leaves. Do some work better than others? Talk about colours and how the natural colour transfers. Set the items in a random way or try and place them to create a recognisable image.





Paper Plane Challenge

Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote



Activity: Fly some paper aeroplanes, measuring how far they travel.

Materials: Paper, tape measure / ruler, items to measure with.

Learning: Make paper aeroplanes and challenge the family to see which one will fly the furthest. Measure these using standard measurements such as a ruler or a tape measure, encouraging your child to read the numbers on the scale. Also try non-standard units of measure, such as Duplo bricks, pencils, teddy bears or hand spans. Which is appropriate to use? If the plane travelled a long way, is using Lego blocks a suitable way to measure? Talk about the distance travelled and compare, for example: "My plane flew a distance of 7 hand spans, yours travelled 10 hand spans. How many more did yours travel?" Complete in a table and try the challenge in different rooms or outside.





Action Songs

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

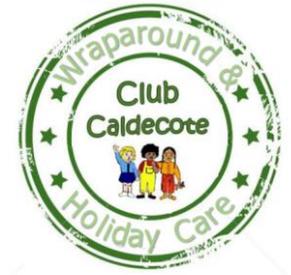
Activity: Sing some of your favourite action songs together.

Materials: A selection of songs.

Learning: Learn the actions to some of your child's favourite songs. If you are unsure of the tune or lyrics, they can all be found online. Some of our favourites are:

- Head, shoulders, knees and toes
- Wind the bobbin up
- The wheels on the Bus
- If you're happy and you know it...
- Row your boat
- Ring 'o roses
- Sleeping bunnies
- The Pirate song
- The Hokey Cokey
- I had a tiny turtle...





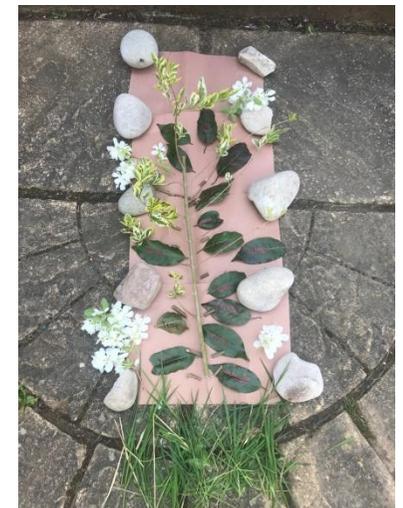
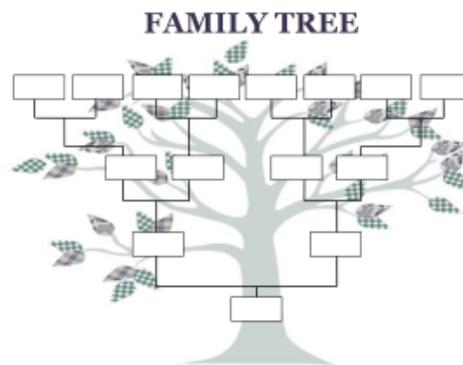
Family Tree

Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Make a family tree

Materials: Paper, colouring materials, natural materials

Learning: Talk about the people in your family. People in your house, people who live nearby or people that are across the world. Make a family tree together, thinking about these people. Use art materials, photographs and place them on a tree. Write names on leaves and make a piece of transient art. For older children, try a more traditional design and see how far back in time you can go...





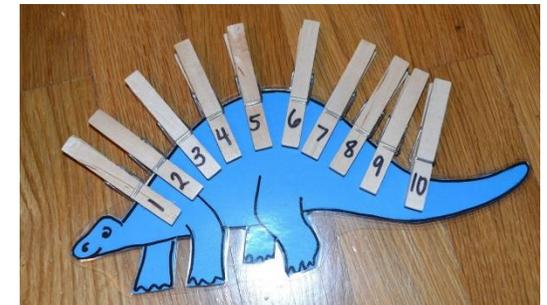
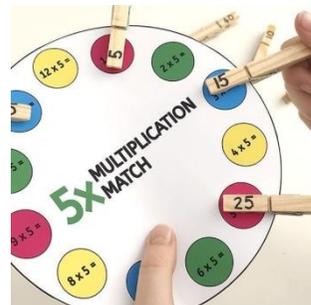
Peg Numbers

Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Write numbers on washing line pegs for lots of number based activities.

Materials: Pegs, felt tip, something to peg on to.

Learning: Use the numbered pegs in lots of ways. Peg them in different places and have a number hunt. Ask your child what the number is and see if they know. Use the pegs to match to quantities or peg them on to something in the correct order. Use them to count forward and backwards or find the missing number in a sequence. Write your numbers in different patterns, perhaps two's, five's or ten's and put them in the right order. Use them to even practise times tables!





Pom-Pom Whisk

Babies

Activity: Feed pompoms into a whisk and ask your child to take them out again.

Materials: Whisk, pom-poms.

Learning: Such a simple idea, but really great for developing fine motor skills. Place some fluffy pom-poms into a whisk and ask your child to take them out, one by one. As they come out, it is also a good opportunity to talk about colours, to count them and to use simple mathematical language like "more, less and how many?"





Mocktail Making

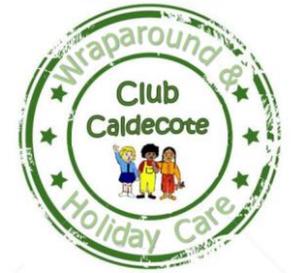
Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Make and enjoy your own 'mocktails'.

Materials: Selection of juices, fruit, ice, straws or other decorations, pencils, paper.

Learning: Provide a selection of fruit juices and even some sugar free fizzy drinks or carbonated water and design a 'mocktail'. Add different ingredients and use a variety of fruit slices to decorate. Write the ingredients down and make a 'mocktail menu' so that you can create them again. Encourage your child to prepare the fruit and to develop basic knife skills.





Cake Case Art

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Use paper cake cases to create artwork.

Materials: Paper cake cases, any other craft materials.

Learning: Let your imagination run wild as you make simple artwork from cake cases. Flowers are a nice simple way to start but you can create anything you like!





Campfire Smores

Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Traditionally from Canada, these treats are called 'Smores' as children often ask for "S'more" of them!

Materials: Rich Tea or Digestive biscuits, chocolate chunks or chocolate buttons, marshmallows.

Learning: Lay chocolate (chunk or buttons) on a biscuit and toast a marshmallow over a campfire, BBQ or even a lit candle. Place the gooey marshmallow on top and finish with another biscuit to make a sweet treat. Always consider safety if allowing your child to hold the marshmallow whilst it toasts, but use the opportunity to talk about fire safety and to allow them to take controlled and well supervised risks.





Cardboard Tube Binoculars

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School



Activity: Use cardboard tubes to make a pair of binoculars and use them to do a spot of bird watching.

Materials: Cardboard tubes, string, other art materials.

Learning: Make a pair of binoculars and use them to look at things in the garden, to play I Spy or use them to role play in an adventure! Why not use them for bird spotting? Note down the birds that you see and keep a tally chart to count them. Use reference books or look online to help with identification and check each day to add to the total.

