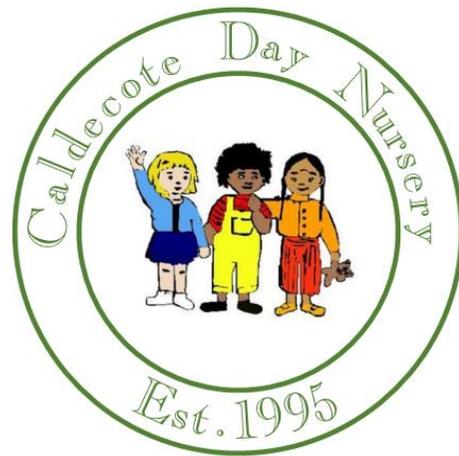
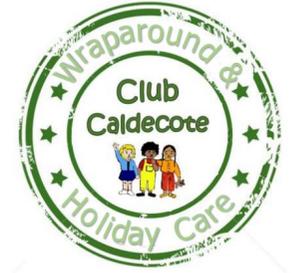


# Caldecote Day Nursery



# Home Learning Ideas

Third Edition



# Shadow Drawing

Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Choose your favourite toy (or family member) to draw in the sun!

**Materials:** Toys, paper, pencils, chalk.

**Learning:** Great for fine motor control and tracing skills. Select a favourite toy to model in the sunshine and trace around their shadow to create an outline on paper. Create family portraits by using chalk on a hard surface.





# Ice Painting

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Freeze paint or water with food colouring to create 'cool' art!

**Materials:** Ice cube tray, paint, lolly sticks, food colouring, paper.

**Learning:** Learn about changing liquids to solids through the freezing process and then use the frozen paint to create artwork. Allow the paint blocks to melt and talk about the change again. Use water with food colouring or different flavours / colours of squash or juice for an edible version of the paint.





# Comparing sizes

Toddlers / Pre-School

**Activity:** Match pairs of shoes and put them in order from smallest to largest.

**Materials:** Pairs of shoes from around the house.

**Learning:** Gather a selection of shoes from around the house. Talk about matching them and finding the pairs. Use simple mathematical language to describe them, such as big, small, longer and shorter. If using wellie boots you could also include vocabulary linked to height. Try and put the pairs in order from smallest to largest, or largest to smallest, comparing size as you go.





# Matching Socks

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

**Activity:** Help around the house by matching socks!

**Materials:** A selection of socks

**Learning:** Ask your child to help pair up the socks when they have come out of the wash! A great game for matching which can lead to conversations about counting, size, pattern and colours. Talk about socks with stripes or spots. Can they see those patterns anywhere else in the house? Count how many socks there are. For Pre-School children or Toddlers who are confident with counting, introducing counting in two's...2, 4, 6, etc.





# Lolly Stick Puppets

Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Use leftover lolly sticks to create puppets for a show!

**Materials:** Lolly sticks, paper, glue, felt tips, card, any other decorations.

**Learning:** Use recycled materials to create lolly stick puppets. Base these on characters from a favourite story to retell, on favourite animals or just be creative and see what happens...!





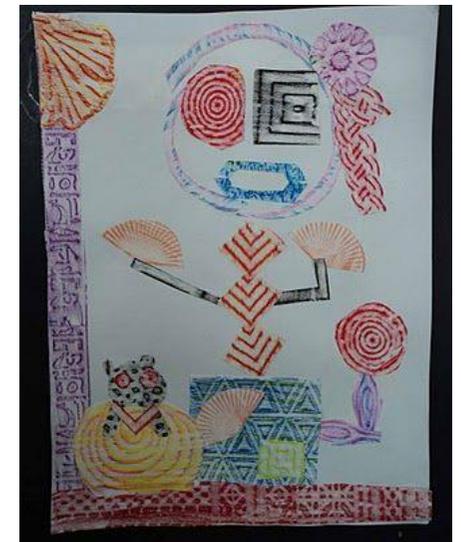
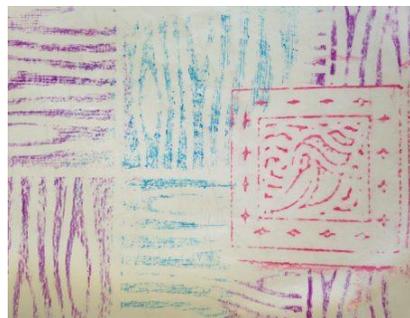
# Wax Crayon Rubbings

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Collect items from around the house to use for rubbings.

**Materials:** Wax crayons, paper, interesting items such as leaves, coins, net fabric, floor tiles, bathroom tiles or anything else with an interesting texture.

**Learning:** Talk about texture and pattern. Experiment with items to see if they will work or not. Collect leaves on a walk or learn to recognise coins if rubbing money. Make a collection of rubbings and see if you can make a collage from them...





# Transient Art

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Transient Art is non-permanent, constantly evolving and has no expectations or predetermined outcome. Gather some materials and place them in a way that appeals.

**Materials:** A selection of loose parts, natural objects, bits from around the house and something to use as a 'canvas' such as an old picture frame, a piece of paper, a tray or log slice.

**Learning:** Talk to your children about the objects and items you are using. Describe the colour, shape and texture of these items. Encourage your child to talk about what they are using and why. Ask open ended questions such as "Why have you chosen that?" or "What can you see in your picture?" Let them lead, describe what they can see and tell you about their artwork. It might form a pattern, something more recognisable or something more abstract.





# Bottle Top Phonics / Spelling

Pre-School / Club Caldecote



**Activity:** Use bottle tops to learn letter sounds, build words and read!

**Materials:** Recycled bottle tops and a felt tip pen.

**Learning:** Write letters on bottle tops to spell words. Start with letters in your child's name. Can they recognise them or rearrange them? Make simple CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words to sound out like; dog, cat, tin, pot, pen, big, top, den, wig... Use a different colour bottle tops for vowels so you can begin to see the difference. Build words or ask them to find a letter sound. Extend this with high frequency words for reading. We use the Jolly Phonics scheme to teach at nursery and you may find some useful links on their website:

[www.jollylearning.co.uk](http://www.jollylearning.co.uk) or on Youtube.





# Bottle Top Maths

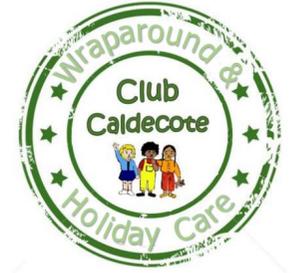
Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Use bottle tops to develop skills in maths.

**Materials:** Bottle tops and a felt tip pen.

**Learning:** Write numbers on bottle tops to use in a variety of ways. Use them to recognise numbers; to order numbers; to find missing numbers in a sequence or complete basic calculations. Use two colours of bottle tops – one for odd numbers and one for even. Use various lids with numbers for matching games. Once you have a set of numbers, you will find lots of uses for them!





# Children's Yoga

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Take some time to breathe and relax with some yoga.

**Materials:** A calm open space and comfortable clothing.

**Learning:** Try to reduce stress levels by having some quiet time each day and taking part in some basic yoga to relax and unwind. Try some of the poses shown with your child or even on your own. Yoga improves posture, flexibility, strength, balance, coordination and motor skills. It teaches breathing techniques that increase energy and decrease anxiety providing effective coping strategies for stress.



Camel pose



Plow pose



Boat pose



Tree pose



Triangle pose



Belly breathing



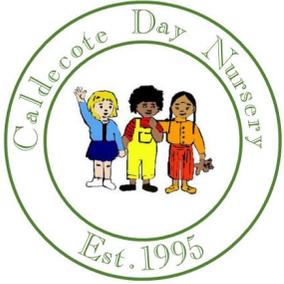
Cobra pose



Warrior pose



Down dog pose



# Painting with Tinfoil

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Use tinfoil in various ways to create artwork.

**Materials:** Tinfoil, paint and paper.

**Learning:** Create artwork on tinfoil, experimenting with colour and shapes. Use the tinfoil as a base and place a piece of paper on the top to create a printed image. Use scrunched tinfoil to create different textures, patterns and images.





# Small Worlds

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Create a small world tray in a Tupperware container or tray and fill it with farm animals, vehicles, dinosaurs, fairies or and people.

**Materials:** Use natural materials from the garden or park.

**Learning:** Talk to your child about what they would like to include in their environment. Collect a variety of materials to make a habitat that might include, pebbles, leaves, twigs and flowers. Add cuttings from herbs to add a sensory dimension.





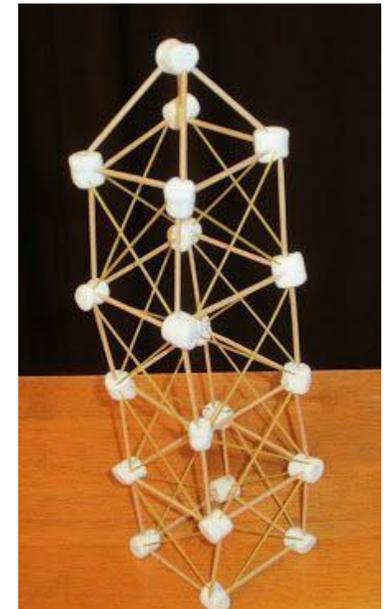
# Food Geometry

Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Build and create 3D shapes and sculptures from food!

**Materials:** Peas, marshmallows, dried spaghetti and cocktail sticks.

**Learning:** Use cocktail sticks or dried spaghetti to build 3D shapes. Peas, tinned chick-peas or even marshmallows can be used to connect and join. Talk about shapes, number of sides, corners, straight edges or just challenge yourself to build the tallest tower you can! Plasticine is a good substitute for peas if you cannot get hold of them.





# Squeezy Bottles

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Use recycled bottles with paint or water to get messy!

**Materials:** Recycled spray bottles, squeezy bottles, paint and paper.

**Learning:** Great for gross motor skills, using paint or just water in squeezy bottles is a good way to create artwork. Squeezing bottles or the trigger of a bottle helps to strengthen fingers. Create Jackson Pollock style artwork on paper or straight onto a flat surface. For more detailed artwork use masking tape on paper to create shapes, spray with paint then peel back to reveal the picture.

