

Splash!

Nursery (Summer)



Sand and water

Pour it

Add various plastic containers, funnels and plastic bottles to the water tray for the children to pour and transfer water and explore capacity independently.

Floating and sinking

Provide a range of resources including bath and pool toys, such as rubber ducks and dive toys in the water tray for the children to explore floating and sinking.

Scented water

Make a sensory water tray by adding orange, grapefruit, lime and lemon peel, fruit segments and whole fruit pieces. Allow the children to squeeze the juice out of the fruit to make citrus-scented water. Encourage the children to talk about the scents.

Bath time

Fill a toy bath with soapy water. Provide dolls, sponges, face cloths and bath toys for bath time fun. Offer towels for drying.

Sloppy sand

Make wet, sloppy sand with which the children can play and build. Offer buckets, sand moulds and cookie cutters for the children to explore.

Water building

Provide a selection of foam shapes and wooden and plastic blocks in the water tray. Encourage the children to build a variety of floating and underwater structures.

Races

Provide various wind up water toys in the water tray for the children to explore and race.



Reading/Writing

Share a book

Fill an empty paddling pool with cushions to create a comfortable reading den. Offer baskets of books on the theme of water for the children to read.



Creative

Water music

Play some water-themed classical music and provide blue floaty scarves or streamers for the children to create dances in time to the music.

Bubble painting

Provide watery paint mixed with a drop of washing up liquid in shallow containers. Add straws for the children to blow into the paint to create colourful, bubbly paint. Offer paper for the children to take bubble prints.

Note: Remind the children to blow rather than suck.

Foamy paint

Fill a Tuff Tub with a large piece of foam, cut to size, and pour water and washing up liquid over the foam. Provide salt shakers filled with red, yellow and blue powder paint for the children to sprinkle onto the foam. Offer paintbrushes for colour mixing and foamy fun.



Investigation

Water fun

Display images of people using rivers, lakes, seas, and swimming pools alongside photographs of the children enjoying water play. Encourage the children to talk about their experiences.

Melting and freezing

Freeze water in spherical ice moulds and put the ice marbles in a Tuff Tub with a marble run for the children to explore.

Bubbles

Provide bubble mixture and a variety of bubble blowers for the children to explore.



Role play/Communication

At the beach

Offer swimming goggles, pool noodles, bodyboards, inflatables, beach wear and beach towels for beachy role-play.



Construction and small world

Water worlds

Set up water-themed small worlds in Tuff Tubs. You could create a swimming pool with small world people, a beach with sand, shells, pebbles, and blue fabric to represent the sea. Support the children to introduce a narrative to their play as they explore the resources.



Outdoor

Icy mark making

Freeze watered-down paint in ice cube trays. Provide a large roll of paper and challenge the children to mark make or write their name with the ice cubes.

Water painting

Provide buckets of water and large paintbrushes for the children to paint, draw and write on different surfaces outside.



Mathematics

Five little speckled frogs

Learn the song *Five Little Speckled Frogs* and leave five plastic frogs with a log and plastic insects or caterpillars for the children to play with independently.

Fishing for numbers

Add plastic numerals, shells and pebbles to a water tray. Offer nets for the children to scoop out objects to count and sort.



Malleable/Fine Motor

Sensory bags

Create sensory water bags by filling ziplock bags with coloured water, baby oil, hydrated water beads, glitter and sequins. Seal the bags with tape and leave them for the children to explore.

