

# Puddles and Rainbows

## Nursery (Spring)

### Outdoor

#### Puddles

Offer watering cans, spray bottles, pots of water and large paintbrushes for water painting and puddle making.

#### Puddle painting

Offer coloured chunky chalks and spray bottles for the children to make brightly-coloured pictures. They could draw around puddles or spray water onto the chalk pictures to see how the colours change.

#### Coloured mud

Colour top soil with ready-mixed paint and add it to the mud kitchen. Provide pine cones, leaves, twigs, spades, scoops, wooden spoons and large buckets for messy mixing fun.

#### Rainbow dens

Provide the children with planks, log slices, blocks and crates. Explain that the floor is hot lava and they need to find a way of crossing without touching the floor.

#### Windy day

Provide a variety of outdoor pinwheels, streamers, windsocks and windchimes for the children to explore on a windy day.

#### Shadows

Provide chunky chalks for the children to draw around shadows outside on a sunny day.

### Investigation

#### Welly walks

Display pictures of the children on long walks and in the outside environment during different weather and at different times of the year and invite them to remember and talk about their experiences.

#### Kaleidoscopes and colourful lights

Display a variety of kaleidoscopes, torches and coloured filters for the children to explore.

### Malleable/Fine Motor

#### Cloud dough

Make cloud dough by mixing flour and baby oil in an 8:1 ratio. Provide stamps, cutters and moulds for the children to explore.

#### Catching clouds

Offer cotton wool balls and white pompoms and provide scoops, easy-grip tweezers, spoons and pots for collecting and sorting fun.

#### Rainbow art

Provide the children with a variety of coloured buttons and beads on white paper or a light box, for them to create transient art.

#### Sun art

Provide a range of beads, seeds, petals and lentils in shades of red, yellow and orange. Offer blue paper or card and invite the children to make transient images of the sun. Take photographs of the images.

### Creative

#### Weather songs

Set up a weather-themed listening station. Provide musical instruments for the children to play as they listen to the different songs and rhymes.

#### Rainy painting

Provide watered-down paint and straws, and model how to blow the paint to make patterns. Encourage the children to talk about what happens when the colours mix.

### Construction and small world

#### Rainbow town

Display a variety of coloured building bricks and blocks for the children to make houses and buildings. Provide large rolls of paper and colourful pens for the children to draw streets and roads. Add small world people for the children to introduce a storyline to their play.

### Sand and water

#### Rainbow bubbles

Add bubble bath or washing up liquid to a water tray. Provide whisks and challenge the children to make foam by whisking the water. Add drops of food colouring to make rainbow foam. Offer cups, containers, scoops and spoons for mixing fun. In a separate tray, add bubble mixture and bubble wands for the children to blow bubbles.

**Note:** To make a thick foam, mix it for the children using an electric hand mixer.

### Reading/Writing

#### Rainbow dens

Provide coloured fabric, cushions and easy grip pegs to make colourful dens. Add baskets of stories linked to colours and the weather.

#### Rainbow writing

Offer a variety of coloured pens, pencils, gel pens and coloured paper for rainbow mark making.

### Mathematics

#### Sorting colours

Offer a selection of coloured objects to sort, such as craft pom poms, buttons, beads and counting cubes, in a Tuff Tub. Challenge the children to sort the objects into colour groups and compare the amounts in each group.

### Role play/Communication

#### Dressing up

Set up a rainy or sunny day dressing up area. Provide the children with a variety of coats, boots, hats, caps, T-shirts and sandals to try on. Offer a full-length mirror for them to see themselves.

