

Shadows and Reflections

Nursery (Summer)

Outdoor

Shadow fun

Provide tablets or cameras for the children to take photos of the funny shadows they make.

Shadow shapes

Provide the children with a variety of coloured chalks to draw around and colour different shadows.

Shadow pictures

Display a range of interestingly shaped objects on a roll of white paper outside on a sunny day. Objects could include pine cones, shells, branches, milk crates and colanders. Challenge the children to make shadow pictures and patterns using the objects. Provide black pens for the children to draw around the shapes if they choose.

Shadow chase

Play racing and chasing games in a large outdoor space on a sunny day. See if the children can catch each other's shadows.

Sound station

Create a sound station using a range of objects including pots, pans, pipes and other everyday items.

Malleable/Fine Motor

Jingle bells

Provide plastic mirrors and a range of coloured play dough for the children to make frames for their mirrors. Offer beads, small shells and glass pebbles to add patterns to the frames.

Construction and small world

Mirrored buildings

Line a Tuff Tub with mirrored card and provide Lego or other construction blocks with which the children can build.

Investigation

Reflections

Provide a selection of shiny objects in which the children can look at their reflection. Encourage them to talk about how their reflection is sometimes distorted.

Kaleidoscopes

Display a selection of kaleidoscopes for the children to explore.

What's that sound?

Put a range of toys that make a noise on a table top for children to explore.

Guess the sound

Record everyday sound on Sound Buttons and provide pictures for the children to match together.

Mathematics

Mirror maths

Tape two mirror tiles together and stand them at right angles, then add another one as a base. Provide 2-D shapes for the children to create patterns and transient art on the mirror base. Encourage the children to notice and comment on the different patterns reflected in the mirrors.

Counting songs

Record counting songs for the children to listen to and sing along with.

Role play/Communication

Fancy dress

Provide a variety of fancy dress outfits for the children to wear. Display full-length mirrors for them to see their funny reflections. Provide cameras or tablets for the children to take selfies.

Sound baths

Set up a tent or cosy dark space with cushions and blankets. Play relaxing music for the children to listen to and enjoy.

Creative

Dancing mirrors

Display large mirrors and provide ribbons on sticks and play lively music so the children can see themselves dancing. Play modern and traditional music from a range of cultures and countries.

Mirror painting

Display large full-length mirrors and provide a selection of ready-mixed paint and brushes. The children can paint over their reflection as they look in the mirror.

Sand and water

Shadows in the water

Add vegetable oil and glitter to water in an outside water tray. Float leaves on top of the water for the children to observe the shadows they create.

Water reflections

Place plastic mirrors and foil at the bottom of a water tray to reflect images as the children play.

Sounds

Add gravel, twigs, pebbles, scoops and spoons to dry sand. Provide a range of containers, such as plastic bottles, cardboard boxes and metal cake tins, for the children to fill and shake. What sounds can they make?

Reading/Writing

Mirror mark making

Spread shaving foam over a mirror for them to mark make into the foam. Or provide mirrors and dry wipe pens for the children to explore mark making and writing on mirrored surfaces.

Symmetrical mark making

Put coloured sand in a Tuff Tub lined with mirrored card. Challenge the children to make symmetrical shapes in the sand using both hands at the same time.

