

## Daily tips for Playful Learning at Home – Number 31

### Water Wall!

A water wall is a great way to have fun while learning about the way water flows, gravity and angles. It can be made from recyclable materials – anything you have around the house. Children can be entertained for hours filling and pouring water, watching it drip and flow on its way to the bottom. It's a great way to keep cool on a warm day.

#### What do I need?

You need an outside area with a fence or wall or something that you can fix things to. Use a selection of containers you have around the house; bottles, cartons, tubes, jugs, etc. You will need something to secure them to the wall/fence such as screws, cable ties or garden wire. Putting a basin or bucket at the bottom means you can collect and reuse the water.

#### This can be good for developing:

- concentration and attention span
- pause and wait
- awareness of object permanence
- cause and effect
- prediction and problem solving
- rhythm and rhyme
- alliteration e.g. pitter, patter, splash, splish
- fine and gross motor skills
- hand eye co-ordination
- early maths skills; quantity, volume, more, less, full, empty
- STEM skills; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Vocabulary; squeeze, sprinkle, flow, pour, squirt, spray, dribble, drip, drop, swoosh, stream, splish, splash, splish

#### What do we do?

Collect together some containers and work out where you want to arrange them to make sure the water can flow from top to bottom. A basin or bucket at the bottom means you can collect and reuse the water. Try using different types of containers to challenge your child – pumps or squeeze bottles can develop strength needed for fine and gross motor skills. Some children might be able to help design the wall and predict what may happen depending on where they place each item on the wall and where they put the holes.

#### Sensory considerations:

- Add washing up liquid for an extra sensory experience. It can create a smell and bubbles.
- This may be a very stimulating activity, but water play can also be very calming. Consider how you might finish the activity and move them onto something else.
- If adapted, this activity can be accessible for very young children and those with a variety of support needs. An adult may have to do the pouring but the sound, touch, feel and even watching will all provide stimulating engaging experiences.

#### How can you take it further?

Think of other ways to collect rainwater to use. You could keep the lids from some of the open containers and put them back on at night and see if they fill up with rain water. If you are feeling brave you could experiment with the viscosity of the liquid you put in the wall; add cornflour, gel or slime and see what happens!

Songs to support learning:

Incy wincy spider

Rain is falling down <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2KYaQSXgRU>

Splish, splash, splish <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uThQaAwxpJI>

**Play & talk together**  
**Be careful with too many questions**

**Pause and wait for your child to respond**  
**Copy what they say and add to it**