



Daily tips for Playful Learning at Home



Cutlery Clatter

Most of us are spending more time at home at the moment. That can mean a constant round of tidying and cleaning. Re-organising a drawer or cupboard can make this a wee bit easier. Getting your child involved can be lots of fun for them and helps to develop their independence.

Cleaning out a cutlery drawer involves lots of sensory fun in the soapy water as well as developing maths and language skills.

What do I need?

- A cutlery drawer in need of a clean and tidy (or any kitchen cupboard/drawer in need of a good sort out)
- A basin or sink of warm soapy water
- A cloth, dishbrush and dishtowels
- A child who is keen to help
- An apron or shirt worn over your child's clothes can help keep them dry

What will your child learn from this play?

- Matching and categorising items which is an important part of maths learning
- Comparing sizes eg soup spoon/dessert spoon/tea spoon
- Focus and concentration
- Helping out and taking responsibility
- Enjoying the sensory experience of the warm bubbly water
- Safety around sharp items

What do we do?

- Remove any sharp knives/items and put them out of reach of your child
- Encourage your child to help clear the contents out of the drawer and into the basin of warm soapy water.
- Putting the basin at a low height can make it easier and safer for them to reach independently
- Encourage your child to help wash and dry the items in the basin
- You can take turns at this or your child may be enjoying the water so much that they want to do all the washing! Take a lead from what they're keen to do.
- Can your child help to sort the clean cutlery? eg find all the spoons or match all the teaspoons together
- You may talk about –
 - the sizes and shapes that go together
 - new words such as scrub, metal, smooth, oval
 - why we need to clean cutlery and plates
- Support your child to wipe out and dry the drawer and cutlery tray and re-fill it
- Your child may only want to help with part of this task and that is fine

How can you take it further?

Chat about any random items you might find in the drawer. Where do they belong? Encourage your child to help put them away, recycle or bin them

Your child may notice which items float or sink. You could explore this further at [Floating Fun](#)

If your child is able to you may wish to support them to safely handle or clean some of the more manageable sharp items and talk about the rules for when and how they can do this at home