

Rainy Day Activities

You don't have to stay indoors when it's raining just put on the right clothes and get outside for some rainy day fun!

RAIN CATCHER



Measure and record rainfall everyday and find out how it varies over time with this simple rain catcher.

What you need

Large recycled plastic bottle, ruler, permanent marker, large elastic band.

What you do

- Carefully cut the top off a large clear plastic bottle, then put it upside down into the rest of the bottle to make a funnel.
- Use a ruler and a permanent marker pen to draw a scale up to about 10cm/4inch, marking each cm/0.4inch. Put the elastic band round the middle of the bottle.
- Place the rain catcher in an open space, tucking a stick through the elastic band and into the ground to ensure the bottle won't blow away.
- Measure and record how much rain falls each day.
- How clean is the rain? Pour your rain through a small sieve lined with kitchen roll; is any dirt left behind on the paper?
- Ask some friends who live in another part of the country to make a rain catcher too. Who can collect the most rain over a week?



RAIN PAINTING



Let a shower of rain transform pictures into multi-coloured masterpieces.

What you need

White kitchen roll and water-soluble pens.

What you do

- Draw pictures on white kitchen roll using brightly coloured water-soluble pens.
- Hang the pictures on a washing line and let a shower of rain mix the colours.
- Experiment with inks, food colouring and paints.
- Sometimes one colour of ink is made up of several different colours; experiment to see if rain separates them out. Can you make a rainbow by letting the rain extract the colours from black ink?
- Let the pictures dry.

SCIENCE*

- Clouds are made up of water droplets; when these droplets grow they become heavier and fall to the ground as rain.
- You can measure rainfall by collecting it in a rain gauge, so you can record daily rainfall, how it changes throughout the year and compare with other areas. Find out [Why does it rain?](#)
- Black ink is a mix of different colours; when the colours are combined they absorb all of the white light, but they can be separated with water. You can learn more about colours and chromatography [here](#).

*Click the hyperlinked texts for useful resources and additional information.

Safety tips

- Get adult help when cutting the plastic bottle.