

Homemade instruments

Rainmakers

What you need

- A wooden rainmaker.
- Kitchen towel tubes.
- Coloured tissue paper.
- Elastic bands.
- Masking tape.
- Cellophane.
- Glue.
- Seeds, lentils, pebbles.
- Paint.

Useful vocabulary

- Shaker.
- Music.
- Sounds.
- Rattle.
- Pattern.
- Rain.
- Pouring.
- Fall.
- Instrument.

Related resources

Songs and rhymes

- **Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head.**
- **Rain, Rain Go Away.**
- **Dr Foster Went to Gloucester**

Books

- **Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain**, Vernan Aardema, Beatriz Vidaul (Macmillan, paperback, 1986)
- **Rain, Rain, Go Away**, Teresa Reed, Stacy Schuett (Little Simon, paperback, 1996)
- **Soggy Saturday**, Phyllis Root (Walker Books, paperback, 2001)

What children will learn

This activity will encourage the children to use their imagination when designing and making their rainmaker. It will help them to focus on listening carefully to different sounds. This activity will fit well with a topic like **Weather**, **Seasons** or **Sounds**.

Links specifically to these Early Learning Goals: PSED11, CLL2, KU5, KU6, PD8, CD2, CD3.

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What to do

- Give each child a kitchen towel tube.
- Show them how to cover one end of the tube with the cellophane. Fasten it with an elastic band.
- Now cover the elastic band with the masking tape to secure it in place.
- The children can choose how to decorate their rainmaker, using the tissue paper and paints.
- Show them the different seeds, lentils and pebbles. Ask them to choose which one, and how many, they would like to put into their tubes.
- Put their choice in the tube.
- Cover the other end of the tube with more cellophane, fix in place with the elastic band and more tape.
- When they have finished making their rainmakers, display them in the finding out area for the children to explore independently.

More to do

- Change the lengths of the tubes – cut some in half and join others together. *Does this make a difference to the sound made?*
- Provide the children with different materials to put in their rainmakers – offer large and small objects. *What difference does this make to the sound?*
- Show the children how using different amounts of the same material will also change the sound of the rainmaker.

Home links

- Try making your own rainmakers at home.
- Go around the home looking for different things to put inside the rainmakers.
- Use different resources from home, such as kitchen foil or material, to decorate the tubes.

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