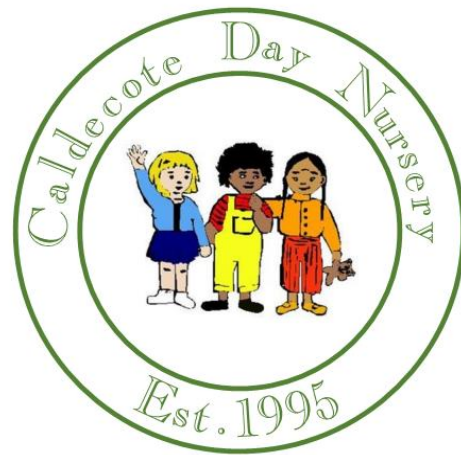
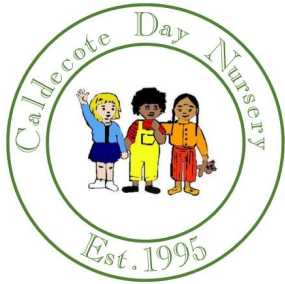


Caldecote Day Nursery



Home Learning Ideas

Fifth Edition



Getting Dressed

Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Turn getting dressed into a game with lots of learning.

Materials: Clothes, timer and music – if you wish.

Learning: Encourage your children to get dressed themselves. Promote independence by letting them choose their own clothes (or give them a choice of two options if that is easier). This is great for developing gross and fine motor skills. Talk about colours and patterns; matching colours and looking at shades of the same colour. Talk about the weather today and ask if they need to wear warm or cool clothes? Set a timer and race against yourself to beat your best time. Challenge others in your family. Put on your favourite song and see if you can get dressed before the music ends.





Pizza Making

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Choose your favourite toppings and make delicious pizzas.

Materials: For a homemade, no yeast dough: 350g plain flour, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp baking powder, 1 tsp salt, 1 tbsp oil, 170ml water and the toppings of your choice.

Learning: Mix together the ingredients for the dough, adding water until it becomes a stiff dough. Knead for 3 – 4 minutes before flattening and adding a base of tomatoes with any other toppings of your choice. Cook on a baking sheet for about 15 minutes at 180°C. If you don't want to make your own dough, English muffins or pitta bread make a great substitute.





Play 'I Spy'

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Play this simple but classic game or change it up!

Materials: Willing players!

Learning: This is an old favourite but can be updated to incorporate lots of learning ideas and developed to incorporate challenge...

"I spy with my little eye, something that..."

- is red or blue (colour)
- starts with a 'c' or 't' (sounds)
- rhymes with hat (rhyming words)
- goes 'tick-tock' (noises)
- is as big as a saucepan (similes)
- is round or square (shape vocabulary)
- is a cylinder or cube (3D shapes)
- is hard, soft, smooth (adjectives)
- is longer than 10cm (measurement)
- is big, blue and bounces (alliteration)



I Spy Bottles

Babies / Toddlers

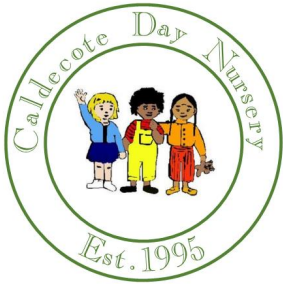


Activity: Find hidden treasure in these sensory 'I Spy' bottles.

Materials: Recycled bottles, small objects that will fit through the neck, rice, beads, seeds to fill up the bottle.

Learning: Add items to a bottle (or jar as it has a wider neck) and fill with rice, seeds or beads to hide them. Ask your child to locate certain items by twisting, shaking or turning the bottle. Add a list to the front or take a photo of the items before you put them in so they can see what they are looking for.





Snack Time Price List

Club Caldecote

Activity: Teach your children about money and basic budgeting while rationing snack supplies!

Materials: Snacks, price list, coins.

Learning: As seen online...If your children are eating you out of house and home, set up a tuck shop with a price list. Provide them with some money each day and ask them to 'pay' for their snacks. Unhealthier snacks cost more than healthy ones to encourage good eating habits. Use real coins for familiarity and encourage them to find ways to make totals. The next day, return the money and start all over again.





Cress Egg Heads

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Grow your own cress or use seeds from fruit to start seedlings in egg shells.

Materials: Egg shells, kitchen paper or soil, seeds, paint or felt tips to decorate the egg.

Learning: Watch as the seeds germinate and begin to grow. Talk about parts of a plant such as roots, shoots and leaves. Transfer outside or to a larger pot or chop and enjoy in cooking.





Butterfly Printing

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Use paints to create symmetrical butterfly paintings.

Materials: Paper, paint, paintbrushes.

Learning: Use this classic technique to paint one side of a sheet of paper into the shape of a butterfly. Fold over and press down to create a symmetrical pattern on the other side. Extend this by painting one half of a shape and seeing if you child can guess what the shape might be? Fold the paper to reveal the answer. Talk about what symmetrical means and look at shapes with a line of symmetry. Use a folded sponge to create more symmetrical, artistic butterflies.





Pebble Painting

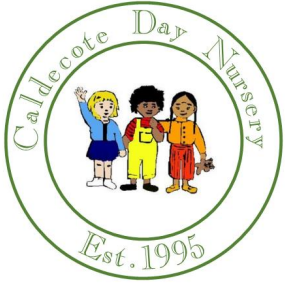
Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Paint pebbles in bright colours to leave a surprise for a neighbour or friend.

Materials: Paint, pebbles.

Learning: Collect stones or pebbles on a walk and use paint, chalk or even felt tips to add some colour. Leave them for neighbours to find on doorsteps or for others to spot out on walks. Add a simple white line and use them to make beautiful arrangements. Use them to play a new game like noughts and crosses!





Weaving with Nature

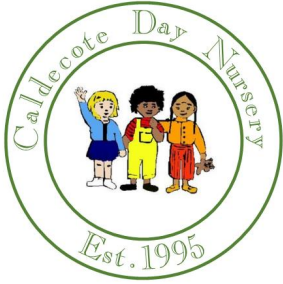
Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Collect natural items such as leaves, twigs or flowers from the garden or on a walk and weave a natural picture.

Materials: Piece of cardboard with cuts at either end to make the frame, string to wraparound the card to make the base for weaving, natural materials.

Learning: Learn the weaving technique of going under, over, under over...to create natural art. Talk about the items that have been collected and watch them decay over time. Use senses to talk about textures and smells, especially if using herbs. Repeat the process, reusing the weaving frame.





Bottle Top Challenge

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

Activity: Develop fine motor skills by doing up and undoing various lids to bottles and jars.

Materials: A selection of bottles and jars.

Learning: Develop hand / eye coordination and fine motor skills learning to screw on and unscrew bottle tops. Provide a selection of bottles with different sized tops and encourage children to match them and develop skills of using fingers to manipulate and twist the tops on and off again.





Coloured Rice

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Make coloured rice to use for a variety of activities.

Materials: Place uncooked rice into a food bag. Add a few drops of food colouring and a tablespoon of white vinegar to help fix the colour. Give the bag a good shake to coat the rice, leave on a plate to dry and then use for a lots of learning.

Learning: Writing letters, writing numbers, using fine motor tools such as tweezers or spoons to scoop, in sensory bottles, to create artwork that can be glued down and displayed, or created in a tray and reused or to use as a base for small world play. There are so many possibilities!







Moon Sand

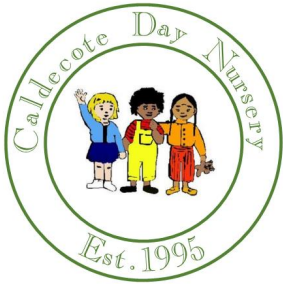
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Make Moon Sand for sensory or construction play.

Materials: 8 cups flour (any) and 1 cup of Baby Oil. Add glitter or powder paint for added interest. Mix by hand until ready.

Learning: Use this soft sand to create structures, fill and empty containers or use as a base for small world toys such as animals, vehicles or people. Talk about textures and challenge each other to build tall structures using cups, pots or silicone cake moulds.





DIY Dice

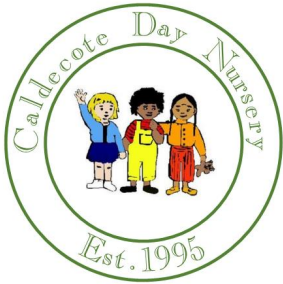
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Make some DIY dice and create lots of games.

Materials: Cardboard box, paper, pens.

Learning: Make a large die and use it for a variety of activities. Learn about colours, shapes or the regular spot patterns on a die. List some physical activities such as hopping or running on the spot. Use them to play a game of bingo where you roll the die, see what you get and cross it off on your bingo card. Make a strong die and blu-tac various activities on so that you reuse the die again and again.





Grow a Rainbow

Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

Activity: Introduce some simple science by growing a rainbow.

Materials: Kitchen paper, felt tips, two glasses of water.

Learning: Colour both ends of the folded kitchen paper with the beginning of a rainbow, then place either end in a glass of water. Watch how the kitchen paper absorbs the water, carrying the ink from the felt tip with it to create a rainbow. Experiment with this technique, trying other colours or designs to see what they create!

