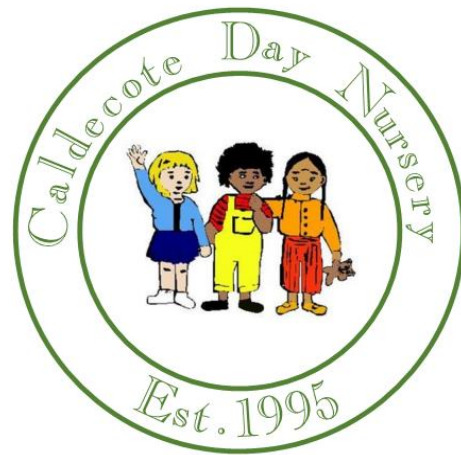
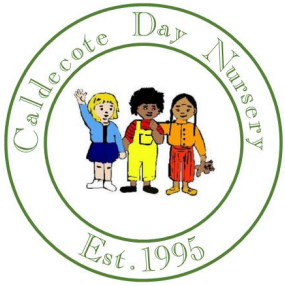


# Caldecote Day Nursery



# Home Learning Ideas

Ninth Edition



# Tissue Box Monster Feet

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

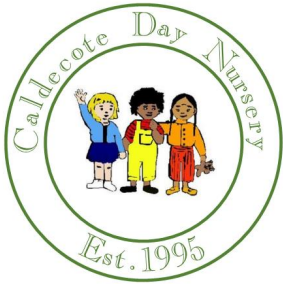


**Activity:** Get creative with monster feet!

**Materials:** Two tissue boxes, collage materials.

**Learning:** Using two appropriately sized tissue boxes, decorate them using paint or collage materials to look like monster feet! Add toe nails, fur and use bright colours to really stand out. Once complete, try stomping and stamping or even make up your own monster dance moves!





# Make Your Own Wraps

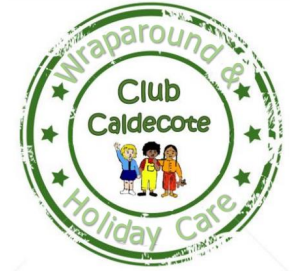
Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Learn to make your own snack and experiment with flavours.

**Materials:** Wraps, variety of sweet and savoury fillings.

**Learning:** Involving children in cooking and preparing food is a great way to get them eating a wide variety. Wraps are quick and simple to prepare and often fun to eat. Provide some wraps and a variety of fillings; cheese, cold meats or salad items. Include berries, yogurt, peanut butter or bananas for a sweet treat. Allow your child to help with the preparation of all the items and experiment with different flavours and textures. Enjoy!





# Porridge Oat Play

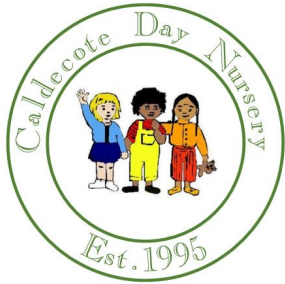
Babies / Toddlers

**Activity:** Porridge oats are a relatively mess free sensory experience.

**Materials:** Tray, porridge oats, spoons, pots, funnels, small world toys.

**Learning:** Provide some different tools and resources to explore the oats. Touch them with your hands and talk about how they feel. Use scoops and spoons to fill and empty containers. Once the play is done, oats can be stored away and used again. Or you could extend the play by adding some warm water; slowly at first. Talk about what is happening to the oats and how they now feel. Explore the different texture and talk about how they can now be moulded. Hide items to find in the oats or use small world people and vehicles to tell stories.





# Fruity Water Play

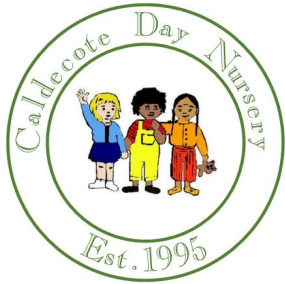
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

**Activity:** Use slices of fruit to add a sensory element to water play.

**Materials:** Box or tray with water, slices of fruit such as lemon, lime or orange, tools to explore the water with.

**Learning:** Explore fruit in a water play tray. Smell and talk about the various fruit slices. Using warm water helps to release some of the aromas too. Add a cinnamon stick or star anise for a truly sensory experience. Use tongs and spoons to scoop or squeeze the slices; developing fine and gross motor skills. Talk about the smells and if you like, even the taste of the fruit. Look at the shape and patterns of what you are playing with and have fun exploring!





# Mini Artist

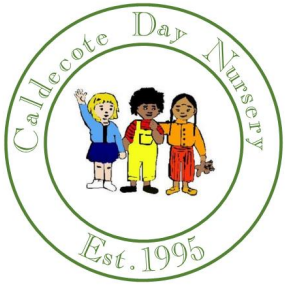
Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Create a piece of artwork in the style of a famous artist!

**Materials:** Famous artwork, paper, art materials.

**Learning:** Research a famous artist online or in a book and talk about one of their famous paintings. Explore the colours and shapes in the painting and talk about what you can see. Use a range of art materials and techniques to recreate this; taking inspiration from the original.





# Muffin Tin Geo Board

Toddlers / Pre-School

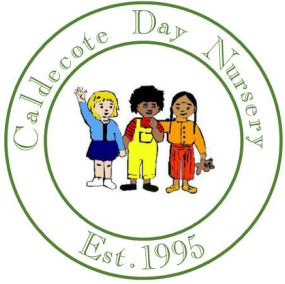


**Activity:** Use a muffin tin and rubber bands to create shapes or count.

**Materials:** Muffin tin and rubber bands.

**Learning:** Obviously you will need to ensure safety is paramount in this activity, as rubber bands can be dangerous, but it is a great way of developing fine motor skills. Use the rubber bands to create shapes, letters and patterns. Use them to group and count muffin tin holes. Manipulating and ensuring the rubber bands stay on requires dexterity and will teach about trial and error too. Easy to organise and no mess!





# Cardboard Spinners

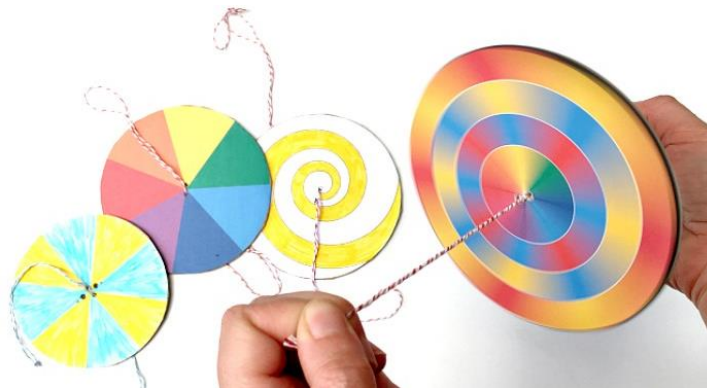
Club Caldecote



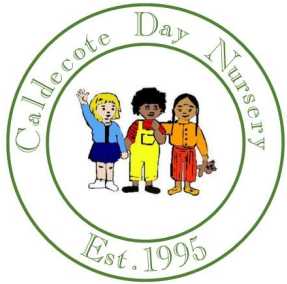
**Activity:** Make a cardboard spinner!

**Materials:** Cardboard, pens, pencils, blu-tak, string.

**Learning:** Cut out a cardboard circle and decorate both sides with pens or pencils. Make two holes in the middle of the circle by placing a blob of blu-tak under the centre of the circle and pushing a sharp pencil through the middle where the holes need to be. Use about one metre of string and thread this through the holes, tying them together at one end. Pull and relax the string, repeating this motion to watch the patterns and hear the spinner hum!







# Nature Cakes

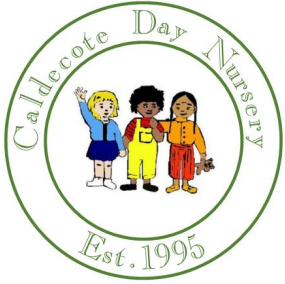
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

**Activity:** Use a muffin tin, cake cases and some natural items to make these 'cakes'.

**Materials:** Muffin tins, cake cases, bowls, spoons, flowers, leaves, petals.

**Learning:** Play with mud to create cakes. Mix and stir mud with water to make different consistencies and place it into bowls or muffin tins to make muddy treats! Decorate with other natural resources from the garden. Spark imagination and creativity to make a whole muddy feast!





# Sensory Herbal Tea Party

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

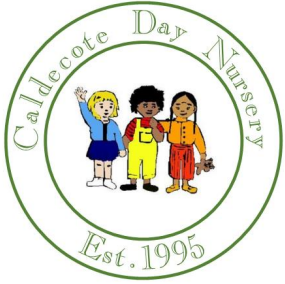


**Activity:** Use herbal tea bags to add a sensory element to your tea party.

**Materials:** Cups, saucers, teapots, herbal tea bags, spoons.

**Learning:** Role play a tea party using herbal tea bags to add a sensory element. Use warm water to allow the full aroma of the tea to escape and practise, filling and emptying containers with the relaxing smells of the tea. Pop a tea bag in each cup and fill with water. Are they the same smells? Are they the same colours? Why not mix the water of each cup and see what you get. Feeling braver...? Cut open the teabags and explore the contents, mixing them together and talking about what is inside.





# Twig Owls

Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Collect twigs and create an owl.

**Materials:** Cardboard, string, twigs, glue and any other collage materials.

**Learning:** Cut a template of an owl on a cardboard box. Collect twigs when out on a walk and use these to decorate the owl, adding eyes, a beak and any other features. Hang using string in the garden. Why not look at other birds and collect natural materials to recreate them too? Perhaps collect feathers or petals from flowers to make other common birds.





# Counting Scavenger Hunt

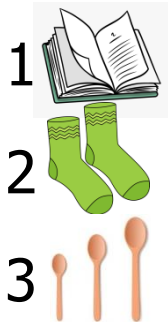
Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School

**Activity:** Help your child to count and recognise numbers on a hunt.

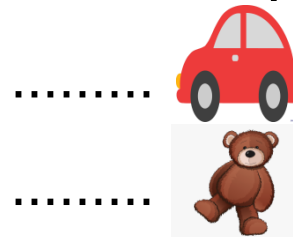
**Materials:** Items from around the house.

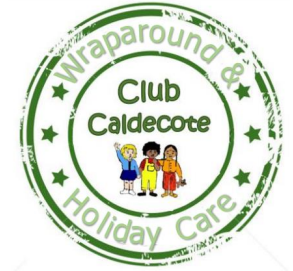
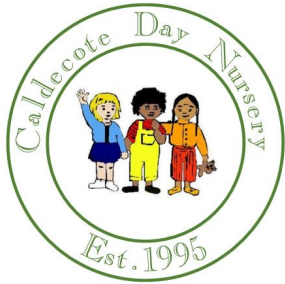
**Learning:** Provide your child with a list, asking them to find items around the house. For example 1 book, 2 socks, 3 spoons, 4 cars...Share the list with your child and look at the numbers, counting them. Draw the items to support independent learning. Extend this by looking around your house for as many of a particular item as you can...

Can you find...?



How many can you find...?





# Invisible Ink

Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Write a secret message and learn about science!

**Materials:** Paper, cotton bud, lemon juice, bowl, heat source.

**Learning:** Dip the cotton bud in the lemon juice and write or draw a message. Using a heat source such as a hair dryer; carefully heat up the paper. As the lemon 'ink' heats up, it will oxidize and turn brown, revealing the secret message. Investigate using different types of ink, such as vinegar, honey or orange juice.





# Role Play Doctor / Vet

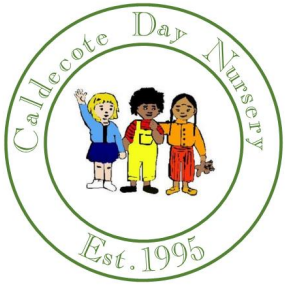
Toddlers / Pre-School

**Activity:** Set up a role play to develop language and imaginative skills.

**Materials:** Props linked to a doctor or a vet, patients, paper, pens.

**Learning:** Use resources from around the house to set up a doctor or vet role play. Provide a few plasters, cotton wool balls, old bandages, clean Calpol syringes or even cardboard tubes as plaster casts and act out a visit to the doctor or vet. Soft toys make good patients! Model language with your child; asking how the toy is feeling and talking about what could be wrong. Examine the toy, naming body parts and counting pairs of eyes and ears for example. Support early writing by providing materials to 'note down' how the patient is feeling and taking notes.





# DIY Whack-a-Mole

Babies / Toddlers / Pre-School / Club Caldecote

**Activity:** Use a cardboard box to make a whack-a-mole!

**Materials:** Cardboard box, soft toy, something to 'whack with' (newspaper stuffed into a sock or an inflated balloon works well.)

**Learning:** Test your dexterity by making your own 'whack-a-mole' game. If you are lucky to have a large cardboard box, you could cut holes in the top and have someone get inside to control the mole. If not, placing your hand in a cardboard box with holes works just as well. Make the mole pop up when needed and ask your child to 'whack it'. Set a timer and see how many moles you can whack in 30 seconds!

