

# 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.