

Chalk Photography

Get stuck into scientific experimentation outdoors with these activities for exploring physical forces, from forest school leader Tricia Pillay.

Learning aims

- Explore their environment, observing how their actions can have an effect
- Experience a variety of outdoor activities, showing curiosity and interest in the world around them.

Water

Resources

- Small stream
- Leaves, sticks, stones.

Activity outline

- Find a small stream
- Observe to see which direction the water is flowing in
- Have the children build a 'dam' across the stream using stones, logs, leaves
- Open a discussion about how the water is behaving
- Can the children stop the water from flowing?
- What happens to the water on either side of the children's dam?
- In heavy rain let the children experiment to work out how they can use sticks, stones etc. to make small lakes and streams
- Remember to let the water flow again before leaving the site!



Making pulleys

Resources

- Rope
- Tree branch
- Bucket
- Stones, pine cones.



Activity outline

- Put a long rope over a strong tree branch
- Tie a bucket or basket to one end of the rope
- Put something in the bucket to weigh it a little, such as a few stones, pine cones etc.
- Let the children experiment to find out what they need to do to raise the bucket
 - How does the bucket come back down?

Jumping on logs

Resources

- Log
- Children!

Activity Outline

- Find space to layout your log
- Have the children take it in turns to jump on one end of the log
- Open a discussion about how the log is behaving
 - Why do we always come down when we jump?
 - Why don't they go up?