

# Enabling Environments

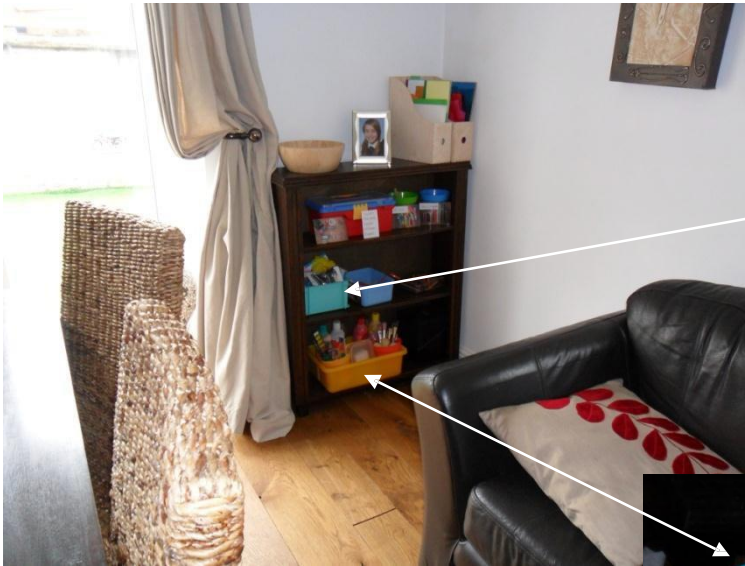


Use shoe racks and baskets to store a small collection of toys. A photo and label will help the children to see what each basket contains. If you have a large collection of a particular resource e.g. vehicles you could place a selection of one type in the basket but add additional photos to help young children remember that they have choices.









A selection of collage material stored in ice-cream tubs.

The use of cupboard tidies is a good way of storing art materials without taking up too much space. This small tidy contains: ready mix paint, finger paints, water colours, playdough, pipettes, sponges, different sized brushes and small tubs for mixing.

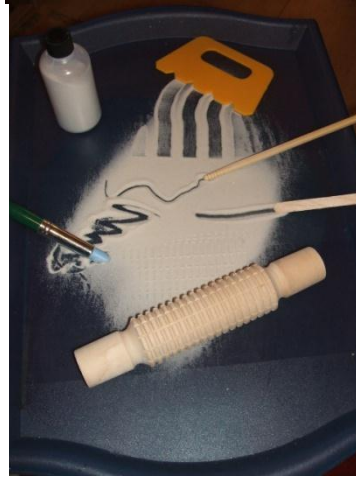


By only providing the primary coloured paints, gives children the opportunity to explore how different colours are made.



Household items that can be used for mark-making include, washing up liquid and spray bottles, paint brushes and plastic roll on deoderant pots, can all be used with thinly made up paint or outdoors with water.

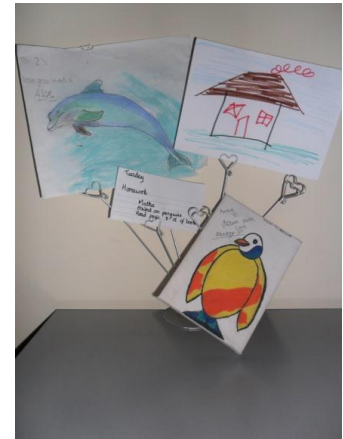
Trays are a handy way of allowing children to make marks in sand or flour or to play with play dough, without too much mess.



Wardrobe tidies and placemats can be used to develop fine motor skills by threading ribbon

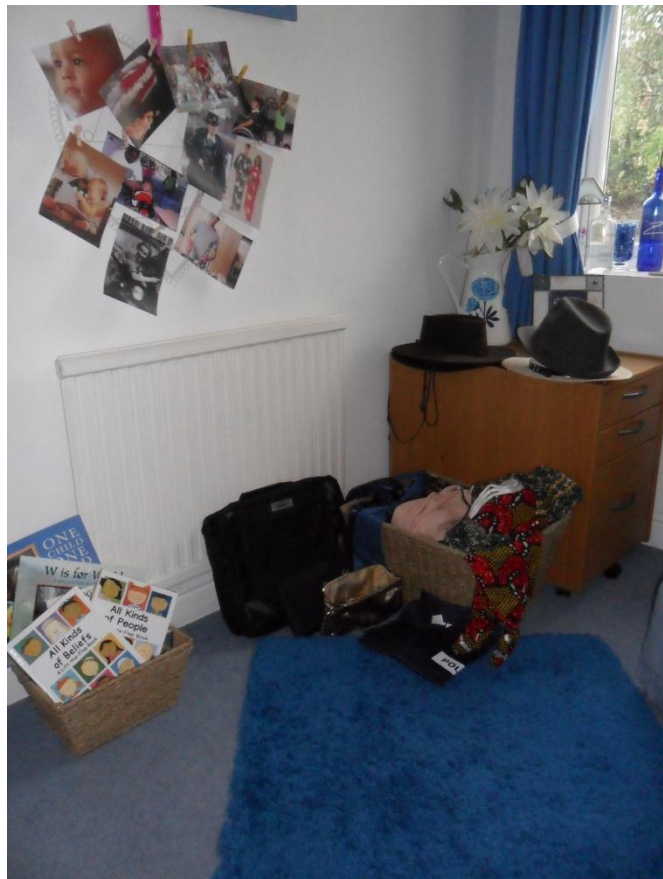
## 5. Display for children

Photo holders and clothes dryers can be used to display children's work.



### Dramatic play

A large box/basket of dressing up items - hats, jewellery, ethnic fabrics, men's ties, ladies scarves, male and female foot ware and tabards (none gender specific). These resources could be used alongside books and photos showing different race, age, culture and abilities. The use of photos showing men and women engaged in nonstereotypical activities also can help support and challenge children's perceptions.







Use things you may have within your home/garden to stimulate role-play

A car cleaning kit

Safe old tools for 'mending and building'

Keep a box of old camping resources for outdoor role-play

Add in old passports, maps, travel magazines, a compass and stories about journeys to stimulate and challenge the children's thinking

Use photos or pictures of different types of holidays

## Space & Furnishings



A small space can be created using five canes and a blanket or a clothes horse. Organza or voile fabric allows you to see through the space but gives the child a sense of escape. Add cushions, soft toys and a basket of books (wide range) to create a simple cosy space for unwinding, reading or looking at books.

Sharing stories, singing songs and talking and listening are very important in supporting children's literacy skills. Adults need to share new vocabulary with children, play alongside them to model speech and encourage children to explore and question things.

Research has shown us that children who can follow steady beats and who develop good rhythmic skills, usually have a good literacy level at the end of key stage one.

## Music & Movement



Provide instruments/noise makers bought or homemade  
Add song books/pictures and CDs from a variety of different countries  
Ribbons, scarves and fabric can be used as dance props.

## Print in the environment



Use meal times and shopping trips to share print and numbers within the environment.

Food packaging will also contain pictures which can often generate conversations and be used to share new vocabulary with young children.

Children helping to set a table can learn a great deal of maths - "I wonder how many will have porridge today?. This word is porridge."  
"Let's count how many bowls we need..."

Place a plastic wallet on the fridge with bits of paper and shopping lists. Encourage the children to write/make marks while you make shopping lists.

Young children should be encouraged through a range of activities to explore making marks and see adults writing.

Add magnetic numbers and letters

Keep old calendars and diaries for children to write on and play with.

Some junk mail can also be useful to look at, read, write on and talk about.



## Ways to support children's experience of maths:

Old birthday cards are very meaningful to children, add numbers if they are not age cards and let the children look at them. This can lead to discussions about the pictures, age, numbers, what the writing says and help children recall past events.

Keep old gift bags and number them for children to play with. Often children really enjoy collecting things and placing them in the bags and tipping them out again.

Write numbers on old paper plates, yoghurt pots, plastic bottles or old socks

If appropriate to the development of the child you can encourage their mathematical skills by counting, ordering, corresponding amounts and singing number rhymes.





A small vegetable rack containing: pencils, crayons, paper, chalk, picture of mini-beasts and a watering can.

Counting balls



Numbered yoghurt pots could encourage children to count, learn what written numbers look like and begin to correspond amounts.

Children can explore numbers with these socks they can peg up. They have the numeral, the written number and dots with corresponding amounts Socks with numbers, amounts and written word on which children explore and peg out.



A small comfy den with a basket of books and pictures of things linked to science and the outdoor world.

The children have made a collection of leaves, twigs, pinecones and stones and placed them in the wooden basket. They can use magnifiers to explore them further.



Posters, pictures and books all support children's learning and help them to make sense of their world.



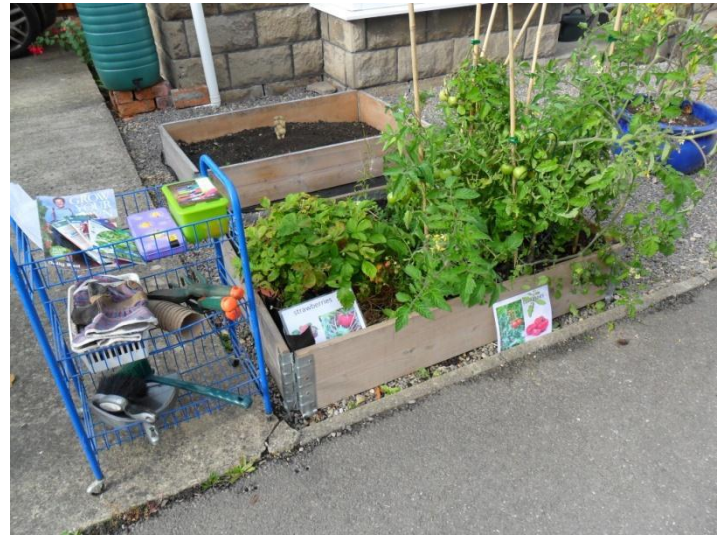
# Ways to support children's experience of Science:

If you are able to undertake gardening with the children do they have easy access to resources?

Share photos of how the plants will look when they have grown.

Observe, discuss and compare them as they grow - size, colours, amounts, shape, taste.

Talk about how and where they grow and when eating them talk about safety, whether you can eat the skin and pips.



Use an old vegetable rack to store things which could include

Old gardening magazines and seed packets

Pencils, paper and tape measures Gloves

and safe tools

Dustpan and brush

WORCESTERSHIRE  
**CHILDREN FIRST**

