
Challenge Time Activities

Remind the children that persevering isn't just about keeping going, it's about trying new approaches too. Try to use language that not only says "stick at it" but encourages children to try other ways of completing the task.

Some useful prompts:-

- How's it going?
- Are you stuck?
- Has anyone in your group got a different idea?
- Can you think of another way to do that?
- Why don't you watch each other and see what's working?

The challenges

1. Construction

Resources: A range of construction kits

Aim: To build a tower taller than one metre

Guidance: Ask the children to work in pairs and explain the task showing them a metre ruler.

2. Aiming and throwing

Resources: Lots of bean bags, a bucket, a large chalk circle and paper or a white board to keep score.

Aim: To get all the bean bags in the bucket without stepping into the circle.

Guidance: Draw the circle on the floor at an age-appropriate size. Arrange the beanbags around the perimeter and put the bucket in the centre.

Explain the task to the children saying that there is no need to take turns and each thrower can throw as many bean bags as they are able, BUT they must not go inside the circle to retrieve any mis-throws. When all the beanbags have been thrown someone should count how many are in the bucket. All the bean bags should be collected from in and out of the bucket, placed outside the circle and the group tries again.

There should be a scorer in each group who keeps a record of the number scored for each round. As many tries are allowed as needed until they manage to get all the bean bags in or the time runs out. In which case, decide what was the highest number achieved.

3. Modelling

Resources: Play dough

Aim: For each child to make 3 models: - something with legs, something that grows and something you might find in the kitchen.

Guidance: Explain the task to the children and share the play dough out between them.

4. Sequencing

Resources: Beads and strings or multi-link or other suitable resources.

Aim: For each pair of children to make 3 sequences:- one with 2 colours, one with 3 and one with 4.

Guidance: Explain the task to the children and remind them that a sequence keeps repeating itself. It may be helpful to suggest a minimum length for the sequences.

4. Reasoning

Resources: Three familiar, age appropriate jigsaws with all the pieces mixed together.

Aim: For the group to sort out the pieces and assemble the three jigsaws separately.

Guidance: Explain the task to the children.