

Stick trails

Using natural materials to encourage children to follow instructions which include mathematical language

EYFS

Early learning goals: Communication and language, Mathematic

Activity type: individuals, pairs

Length of activity: ongoing

Outdoor requirements: playground or park

Resources: range of natural materials, objects to use for challenges, painted pebbles, rope, objects to attach to rope

Activity

Read a story about children going on a trail e.g. Peppa Pig's Nature Trail <http://www.peppapig.co.uk/read/nature-trail>

Make children a trail and ask them to follow it (make arrows using sticks to show them where to go). Include challenges in the trail, using symbols as instructions e.g. painted pebbles, these may include what to collect or a physical challenge.

The trail could include rope (attached from trees or posts) to follow with objects attached to the rope to count or feel

Let children make their own trails for each other to follow by selecting a range of natural materials, e.g. twigs, pebbles, seeds etc.

These trails could stay in the outside space or be taken down after use.



Specific risk assessment

Ensure physical challenges are suitable and can be managed by the children.