

Continuous provision:
Outdoor learning

Nursery
Age 2-4

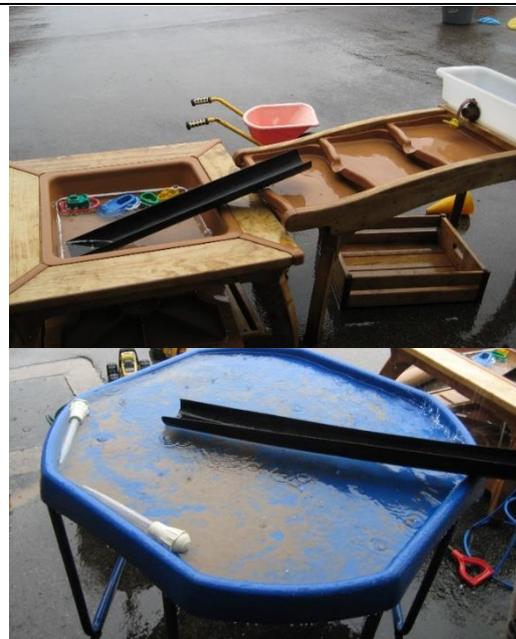
Title: Rainy day water play

Child-led exploration

On a very rainy day, the children were exploring the outdoor water tables and tuff trays that were quickly being filled with raindrops and water pouring from the shelter roof.

One three year old (B) explored ways to move water from a large tub, along a 'stream bed' cascade and into a raised blue tuff tray. He explored using guttering, but it was too long and steep so the water went past the final tray. An adult wondered aloud about how else to move the water.

Another child (S) joined as he was trying to get more water to the top of the run and they tried a big pipette/turkey baster (too small), the scoop of a yellow digger (too much fell out), a wheel barrow (too heavy), a spade (too small).



The introduction of the spade led to some sand being added to the container. The adult discusses the sand mixing with S and they noticed that the water had changed colour. The child noticed some sand stuck to her spade and used her fingers to brush it off but it was a bit stuck. The adult wondered what would happen if she dipped the sandy spade into the container of water. She did so... 'It's all gone now' she said.

Other children joined in with the moving and mixing of sand and water, which had now moved to a tuff tray on the floor. 'We are mixing cement'. The adult explained that the sand in the water might scratch and block the cascade tray but it would be ok to be tipped out into the tuff tray as this was what 'real builders used to mix cement'.

Meanwhile, B had positioned guttering on a stand to funnel the roof water into a tuff tray.

Possible future provision/next steps

Add further resources for moving water e.g. pipes, funnels, containers, water wheel. Explore using the water to carry materials like boats, leaves or 'pooh' sticks.

Learning outcomes include (Birth to 5, Technology):

Range 4: *Uses pipes, funnels and other tools to carry/transport water from one place to another.*

Characteristics of effective learning:

Thinking creatively and critically: *Playing with possibilities (what if? what else?). Making decisions about how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal. Flexibly changing strategy as needed.*

Active learning: *Maintain focus. Persisting with an activity or toward their goal when challenges occur.*

Example from Noah's Ark Pre-school, Bristol