

## A few practical activities to try.....

What can you find?

Together you can collect a variety of different materials such as items of fabric, paper, wood, plastic, glass and metal. Some items you find may look like metal but it could be plastic. What material is underneath.? Sort through these items together to discover. Use empty cardboard boxes to store the different items in. You could tally how many of each you have found. Is there more paper or more plastic?

Floating and Sinking

Fill a tray/basin with water and gather objects from around your home. Discuss whether these objects may float or sink and why. Encourage them to think about size, shape and weight of the objects before they place them in the water. Once you have placed the objects in the water talk with your child if their predictions were correct. Children can learn about making predictions and experimenting.

Feely Bag

You could create your own feely bag, such as an old rucksack, an empty tissue box or cereal box with items in from around the house. Use a bag that your child cannot see through. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to explore their senses. Encourage your child to think about texture and descriptive terms for the objects. Are they bumpy, bubbly, coarse or furry? Children can develop a wide vocabulary by thinking about different texture words. You can use this activity to try and match different items. Can you find two objects that are bumpy or two that are smooth?

## Songs, rhymes & activities

### **Incy Wincy Spider**

#### Introduction

This is a great rhyme to sing together.

'Incy Wincy Spider climbed up the water spout,  
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.  
Out came the sunshine and dried up all the rain,  
So, Incy Wincy Spider climbed up the spout again'.

#### Activities

Sing the rhyme together – Use lots of actions and act out the spider climbing up the drain pipe. When the rain comes down, mimic the raindrops falling. Open your arms out wide to show the sun coming up. You can also make up your own actions. This is great for learning about prepositions, such as up, down, high and low.

.Make your own spider

Try making them from pom poms, a ping pong ball, a rolled up sock or whatever you can find to improvise. What will you call your spider? Will it be Sid, Sammy, Sol, Sandra, Sindy, Sonya or Simon? Can you think of other names that start with an 's' (This is great for early phonic activity). Talk about spiders and how they have 8 legs. Your spider's legs could be made from strips of cardboard, paper straws, wool or pipe cleaners. Can you count out loud together up to 8?

## 5 Little Speckled Frogs

5 little speckled frogs, sat on a speckled log,  
Eating some most delicious bugs – yum, yum!  
One jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool,  
Now there were 4 green speckled frogs – glub, glub!

**Fantastic Frog Facts** There are more than 5,000 species of frog. Some frogs can jump over 20 times their own body length. (Try to work out how far 20 times the length of a child could be.) Frogs don't drink water, they absorb it through their skin.

Sing the rhyme together and act it out using any props you have available. The log might be a chair, a cushion or a piece of wood outside. You might make the frogs by drawing and cutting them out, or they could be rolled up socks or a selection of cuddly toys.

The rhyme is helpful for children's understanding of subtraction and what happens when you take away one item at a time. Using your props, extend their understanding by asking questions such as; "How many frogs would be left if 2 jumped in at the same time? What about if 3 more frogs hopped on the log at the same time?"