

## Washing Chairs

### Materials

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Buckets filled with soapy water • sponges • plastic chairs

### What to do

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1. When the weather gets warm, tell the children it's time for spring cleaning.
2. Take your plastic chairs outside along with buckets filled with soapy water and sponges.
3. The children will have a ball washing and scrubbing the chairs! Rinse with clean water from the buckets or hose them off.
4. Leave them in the sun to dry.
5. The children feel a great sense of accomplishment and pride in being able to help, and have fun in the process.

★ Tracie O'Hara, Charlotte, NC

## Mud Party

### Materials

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Mud • old clothes and change of clothes • towels • plastic bags • garden hose and lawn sprinkler • related snacks (see below)

### What to do

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1. Plan a mud party after a rainy day, or make your own mud. It is best to do this on a warm day.  
**Tip:** Do this activity with a small group of children—too many children can be overwhelming.
2. Instruct the children to come to school in very old clothes. Ask them to bring a towel and a change of clothes. (Children who do not like to get dirty should not be expected to participate.)
3. Let the children slide in the mud, jump in the mud, make mud pies, and so on.
4. After a set amount of time, turn on the lawn sprinkler (away from the mud) and let the children play until relatively clean. Finish by spraying each child with the hose.

5. Provide a changing place for each sex and ask them to change into their spare clothes. Put their dirty clothes into plastic bags.
6. Create a calming transition by serving a related snack, such as chocolate pudding, "dirt" sundaes (ice cream with cookie crumbles), fudge bars, or "mud pies" (chocolate pie).

★ Wanda Pelton, Lafayette, IN

## Soaring Birds

### Materials

Construction paper • scissors • small to medium Frisbees • feathers • wiggly eyes  
• glue • thick black marker • 4 water bottles

### What to do

1. Cut out triangular beaks from the construction paper. Glue the beaks, feathers, and eyes on the Frisbees. Let dry.
2. Wrap construction paper around four full water bottles and glue in place. Use a thick, black marker to mark the four bottles: 3 feet, 6 feet, 9 feet, and 12 feet.

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