

Pool Party

Materials

three small plastic wading pools: small, medium, and large
hose
stopwatch
sprinkler
variety of water toys and containers for transferring water

What to do

1. In warm weather, have a Sprinkler Day!
2. Ask the children to help arrange the three empty pools in a line by size. Let them fill each pool using a hose. Predict how long it will take for each pool to fill. Use a stopwatch to keep track of the time.
3. After filling all three pools, compare how long it took to fill each one.
4. Ask the children to predict how many of them will fit in each pool. Let them sit in each pool, one at a time, until the pool is full of children. Count how many children are in the pools when full. Again, make a few comments that will lead to the children brainstorming about why each pool held different numbers of children.
5. Provide water toys and containers for transferring water. If the children show interest in transferring water, ask them to predict how many times they will have to travel back and forth in order to move all the water in the small pool to the other two pools. You will need LOTS of time for this!
6. Turn on the sprinkler and have fun!

More to do

Make some mini-pools for tabletop play when the weather is cold. Purchase three pie tins in three different sizes. Add small plastic dolls, some finely cut blue tissue paper, and some small rubber balls and have a pretend pool party!

Related books

All About You by Catherine Anholt
Better Not Get Wet, Jesse Bear by Nancy White Carlstrom
Dear Mr. Blueberry by Simon James
How I Captured a Dinosaur by Henry Schwartz

 Virginia Jean Herrod, Columbia, SC

Springtime Kite

Materials

tempera paint in four or more colors
 shallow bowl for each color of paint
 thick string
 scissors
 9" x 12" white or pastel-colored construction paper
 brown wood-grain craft foam or brown construction paper
 yarn in pastel colors
 white glue
 scraps of craft foam sheets of various colors

What to do

- Mix paint to a thin consistency and pour into separate bowls or flat cup containers.
- Cut string into 16" lengths. Put one string into each color of paint. Allow about 3" of string to extend beyond the bowl to hold onto.
- Choose one color of string and place it on a sheet of paper in a wiggly fashion. Fold the paper in half over the string.
- Press down lightly on the paper as a child pulls the string out, wiggling it side to side as he pulls. Press the paper together firmly.
- Open the paper and repeat the process with another color of wet string. This will form an interesting duplicate design.
- Cut narrow strips of wood-design craft foam or brown construction paper. (This step can be done ahead of time.)
- Let the painted paper dry. Trace the kite shape (see illustration) on the painted paper and cut out.
- Glue the brown strips on the kite. Cut a strip of yarn and glue it to the back of the kite.
- Cut bow shapes out of craft foam scraps. Cut at least three bows per kite. Glue the bows to the yarn on the back of the kite.

