

My Creative School Tools

Part of the My Creative School Learning Resource:
Arts-led, schools-focused tools exploring new
approaches to school development
www.anewdirection.org.uk/mcslearningresource

Creatively exploring time in maths

**Four hands-on activities to support teaching maths.
Originally developed to creatively explore time with students in a
SEND setting.**

I am the cress seed

What you will need to start:

Cress seeds, enough packs for each child.

Exploration

- Can you plant me in anything unusual? I like cotton wool, fabric and many other materials.
- What do I need to grow?
- Can you plant me in a pattern?
- How tall will I grow?
- Measure me each day, you can do it with a ruler or take photos of me that can be put in a sequence.
- What happens if you don't water me?

I am the washing line

What you will need to start:

String to hang up for a washing line, with pegs – one washing line per child or small group

Exploration

- You can create an unusual and creative timeline of your school day.
- What is the same or different about today from yesterday?
- What is coming up next today?
- Reflect on the symbols, artefacts and artworks that have been collected or made and what it means to you or the class.
- What time of a day is it now?
- You can collect or create artworks that represent moments in your school day.

I am the salt

What you will need to start:

Around 100g salt in small bags like sandwich bags, tied at the top. One per child.

Exploration

- Find a floor that is dark and smooth (that you can easily sweep up)
- I am in little bags- carefully handle me until you are in the right position- stand on the dark floor with the bag of salt in your hand above the floor.
- Cut a small hole in the corner of the bag.
- Everyone move in time to the same beat- have a drum/chime/clap so everyone can hear
- Try moving in a circle- try moving in time to the beat
- Draw with the salt on the floor in a circle
- How many beats does it take for the bag to empty?
- Look at the design on the floor- can you make any more marks?

I am the photography paper

What you will need to start:

Sun photography paper /sun print paper. Read instructions carefully. Paper needs to be washed once exposed to sunlight, so have a water source nearby.

Exploration

- I capture images using the sun and special paper- I am a very early form of photography.
- What objects could you use? e.g. leaves or buttons- maybe you can look in the playground, woodland areas or bring in special objects from home.
- How long does it take to make a print on the paper?
- Does it need to be a really sunny day?
- Let's hypothesize- if I am left out for a long time/short time in the sun, how will the print appear?
- Research other forms of photography and/or printing to capture moments in time.
- What else could you use that will demonstrate change over a stretch of time? What change takes place quickly? What takes a long amount of time?

Originally developed by Natasha Cossey (creative practitioner) and Martine Bruce-Linton (class teacher) in Priory School (Croydon). To learn more about this project go to: <https://www.anewdirection.org.uk/what-we-do/schools/my-creative-school>