



5 MINUTE OUTDOOR MATHS ACTIVITIES

For Early Years Foundation Stage,
Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2



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EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

Ages 2 - 5

1

COUNTING NATURAL OBJECTS

Gather groups of natural objects e.g conkers, stones, sticks and ask the children to match the total with a NUMBER (you could put the numbers on a stone).

2

NATURE HUNT

Ask children to run around and gather different natural objects e.g 5 pine cones, 2 sticks.

3

PLAY 'GRANDMOTHERS FOOT STEPS'

Someone is at the front and when they turn around they have to freeze – adapt this to counting 2 steps.

4

RUN AND TOUCH 3 TREES

... or 3 different objects in the play ground.

5

NUMBER GROUPS

Run around in the group and get into groups of 2, 4, 5 etc.

6

ORDERING NUMBERS

Number some rocks or wooden disks and ask children to order them – what number is larger and which comes first?

5 MINUTE OUTDOOR MATHS ACTIVITIES

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (AGES 2-5) CONTINUED



7

CHALK NUMBERS ON THE GROUND

Write different numbers on the ground - ask children to run to number 6.

8

NUMBER LINES

Using stones with numbers, make a number line.

9

SHAPE HUNT

Ask children to explore and try and find 2D shapes.

10

LETTER HUNT

Ask children to explore and see if they can find the letter W or Y.

11

OBSTACLE COURSE

Ask children to follow an obstacle course and make sure you use the languages of over, around, under, next to.

12

MEASURING WITH NON-STANDARD UNITS

Ask children to find a stick and see how many stones you would need to measure the stick.

13

SAMMY THE SNAKE

Measure a length of thicker string (paracord) and put a little bit of tape on the end for the head. Using different lengths of string - 30 cm, 1 metre and discover if you can find things of this length.



KEY STAGE 1

Ages 5 - 7

14

NUMBER LINE

Hang a rope up and provide pegs and number cards – ask the children to order the numbers and then find the same number of objects (leaves to match the number).

15

HULA HOOPS

Make a Venn Diagram using Hula hoops - then get the group to sort the different objects e.g leaves, sticks or stones, by different features e.g by size, colour, or in English by soft, spikey.

16

SHAPE HUNT

Go on an adventure to discover 3D shapes.

17

STRING SHAPES

Provide some string and tie it together, from this make shapes e.g triangles or squares – explore around the play ground if you can see these shapes.

18

BODY SHAPES

Get into groups and find different ways to make the shapes on the ground or standing up.

19

STICK SHAPES AND CLAY

Make different 2D then 3D shapes using sticks. Add in clay to enable the groups to make the shapes more complex.

20

SYMMETRY ART

There are lots of ways to create symmetry using loose parts. Create a centre point and make sure the art is perfectly balanced on each side!



5 MINUTE OUTDOOR MATHS ACTIVITIES KEY STAGE 1 (AGES 5-7) CONTINUED

21

COUNTING IN ONE MINUTE

See how many times you can jump, walk, hop, in 1 minute.

22

COUNTING AND ADDING

Use target games to get children to throw stones or bananas into a space (could be made with sticks or a circle in the mud or made on cardboard). Ask them to add how many in 5 minutes.

23

ORGANISE SIZE

Which stick is the longest, shortest, thickest etc.

24

NUMBER GAMES

Get into a circle and give the group a number. The facilitator may shout out even numbers, and they run to another place, or odd, or 6-3, or numbers less than 8.

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We give you the skills and the confidence to effectively lead outdoor learning and forest school activities in your environment, no matter if you have access to green space or not.



KEY STAGE 2

Ages 7 - 11

25

STICK FRACTIONS

Ask children to represent fractions by breaking the sticks up into halves, thirds, quarters - how many quarters make a half?

26

POTIONS

Measure all kinds of ingredients to make a potion and write out a recipe - how much water in total?

27

PLANT GROWTH

Which plant is the tallest, which is the smallest, how fast is it growing. Can you represent this on a graph?

28

MEASURING JUMPS

How far is your jump? To the nearest millimeter.

29

ANGLE HUNT

Make a right angle using sticks and go on to discover lots of 90 degree angles - if the objects have greater than 90 degrees (obtuse) or less than 90 degrees (acute).



HI, I'M MARINA, THE FOUNDER OF THE OUTDOOR TEACHER

I hope you enjoyed our free "5 Minute Outdoor Maths Activities" guide that I've designed for you to get you going with some ideas on maths activities you can run outdoors. If you'd like to learn more and take the next step, why not join our "The Forest School Activities Online Training" which is available on our website. Start your journey today!