

Practical activities for primary aged children at home during extended periods of school closure

Are there practical activities that children could do safely at home?

If you are faced with a period of school closure and you want to suggest some practical activities that children could safely carry out at home, science activities can be ideal. However, some children may not be supervised and some may have younger siblings. Remember, your children's safety is still your responsibility.

However, this does not mean that there are no suitable practical activities that could be safely carried out by your children at home to get them thinking scientifically.

The good news is we have plenty of options and with this in mind we have reviewed our activities and selected those that are most appropriate to use in these circumstances. They use resources that they may already have at home or if not, should be readily available from high street stores.

These activities are fun, contain excellent science and can easily be used creatively by teachers to explore scientific ideas at different levels – for example through the addition of more challenging questions or a research task.

How to use these resources

Remember even though the resources are written very clearly they are intended for use by a qualified teacher and not a parent or other member of the general public.

As a teacher you will need to decide how best to use the activity and indeed if the activity is suitable and safe for your children at home.

Do's and don'ts

- Don't give children/parents access to the CLEAPSS website
- Don't send the CLEAPSS document home – it is not intended to be a child worksheet
- Do review the activity in the light of what you know about your children's capabilities and home life
- Do add additional notes where you think these will help children do the activity successfully and safely
- Do add additional questions to link the activity to the learning you wish for the pupils
- Do remind parents to stick to the procedure you've given and not to change it

Remember if you need help, contact CLEAPSS, we're here to help.

List of activities

Suitable Activities

| CLEAPSS Code | Title of Guide | Link to guide | Any additional comments |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| P095 | Making a wormery and observing worms | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P095-Making-a-wormery-and-observing-worms.aspx | - |

| | | | |
|------|---|---|-----------------------|
| P090 | Seeing stars – making a constellation viewer | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource-File/P090-Seeing-stars-making-a-constellation-viewer.pdf | - |
| P087 | Flappy bat | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P087-Flappy-bat.aspx | - |
| P085 | Making and successfully throwing a boomerang | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P085-Making-and-successfully-throwing-a-boomerang.aspx | - |
| P084 | Overflow - Using water displacement to measure volume | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P084-Overflow-using-water-displacement-to-measure-volume.aspx | - |
| P083 | Making trace fossils | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P083-Making-trace-fossils.aspx | - |
| P077 | Double bubble | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P077-Double-bubble.aspx | - |
| P071 | Blast Off! | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P071-Blast-off.aspx | - |
| P070 | Making ice cream without a freezer | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P70-Making-ice-cream-without-a-freezer.aspx | - |
| P068 | Choosing and using colour | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P068-Choosing-and-using-colour.aspx | - |
| P067 | Pop up spring chick | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P067-Pop-up-spring-chick.aspx | - |
| P056 | How does Vitruvian Man stand up today? | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P056-How-does-Vitruvian-Man-stand-up-today.aspx | - |
| P053 | Make your own freshwater food chain | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P053-Make-your-own-freshwater-food-chain-mobile.aspx | - |
| P054 | Freshwater food chains and food web resource | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P054-Freshwater-food-chains-and-food-web-resource.aspx | - |
| P055 | Hatching spring chick | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P055-Hatching-spring-chick.aspx | - |
| P049 | Glitter Germs | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P049-Glitter-germs.aspx | - |
| P001 | Investigating indicators | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P001-Investigating-indicators.aspx | - |
| P025 | Vinegar and bicarbonate balloons | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P025-Vinegar-and-bicarbonate-balloons.aspx | Can be a little messy |
| P024 | Sunshine absorbency | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P024-Sunshine-absorbency.aspx | - |
| P005 | Investigating soaps and detergents | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P005-Investigating-soaps-and-detergents.aspx | - |

This document supports teachers planning practical activities. It is not designed as a worksheet for classroom use

| | | | |
|------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| P089 | Dissolving jelly | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P089-Dissolving-jelly.aspx | - |
| P072 | Straw shooter rocket | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P072-Straw-shooter-rocket.aspx | - |
| P066 | Making bath bombs | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P066-Making-bath-bombs.aspx | - |
| P034 | Separating inks simple method | http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P034-Separating-inks-simple-method.aspx | - |

Unsuitable Activities

| CLEAPSS Code | Title of Guide |
|--------------|---|
| P086 | Spinning spirals |
| P080 | Fire writing |
| P064 | Pond dipping |
| P057 | Vinegar and bicarbonate fire extinguisher demonstration |
| P021 | Looking closely at the parts of a flower |
| P035 | Making a light-up greetings card using copper tape circuits |
| P006 | Growing fungi on food |
| P018 | Investigating burning |
| P075 | Absorbent materials |
| P073 | Lights on lights off |
| P058 | Density cocktail |
| P052 | Floating liquids |
| P023 | Steady hand game |
| P043 | Using UV bead bracelets to study light |
| P040 | Testing food samples for starch |
| P014 | Separating felt pen ink colours |
| P078 | Glue from milk |
| P081 | Quick and easy cakes |
| P079 | Inseparable books |
| P076 | Balloon Kebabs |
| P074 | Lava lamp |
| P050 | Iron for breakfast |
| P042 | Slime time |
| P002 | Investigating heating and melting |