

Activity – Everyday materials

Year 1 programme of study (statutory requirements)

Everyday materials

Pupils should be taught to:

- distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made
- identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock
- describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials
- compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties

Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Pupils should explore, name, discuss and raise and answer questions about everyday materials so that they become familiar with the names of materials and properties such as: hard/soft; stretchy/stiff; shiny/dull; rough/smooth; bendy/not bendy; waterproof/not waterproof; absorbent/not absorbent.

Resources needed

Various pieces of stone, wood, metal and plastic.

Preparation

This activity could be incorporated into the farm walk that you are already thinking of doing as part of the school's visit. Plan out a short walk around the farm. Remember that year 1 children are only small, so may be unable to walk too far. Map out four key stopping points: A dry stone wall (stone), a wooden fence (wood), a farm vehicle (metal) and a livestock feed bucket (plastic). These are all examples. You may think of other items that are more appropriate.

At each stopping point, place a piece of stone, wood, metal and plastic.

Description of the activity

At each of the stopping points, ask the children the following questions:

- What is the object – wall, fence, vehicle, bucket, etc?
- Why is it on the farm?
- What is it made out of - stone, wood, metal and plastic?
- Is it hard/soft; stretchy/stiff; shiny/dull; rough/smooth; bendy/not bendy; waterproof/not waterproof; absorbent/not absorbent etc?

You can then point to the stone, wood, metal and plastic items that you put in place earlier on. Ask the children the following questions:

- Which of the items is the same material as the first object?