

Uisce Water



Foghlaim/learning

Learning across all six areas of the curriculum can take place in the water area. It is an area which offers opportunities for children to:

- * Develop their concentration as they are involved in prolonged periods of undisturbed activity
- * Listen, talk and ask questions
- * Refine mathematical skills of counting, sorting and matching
- * Develop their understanding of aspects relating to knowledge and understanding of the world, including the properties of materials as they investigate topics such as 'floating and sinking' and 'absorption'
- * Engage in role play and imaginative activities such as making cups of tea or entering undersea worlds
- * Develop their physical skills as they use small equipment and pour water from jugs through funnels into bottles

Suíomh/Location

- Position the water area near a sink or tap to minimise the health and safety problems that may stem from transporting water
- Place the tray outside in fine weather
- An outside water butt filled with a hose will give children regular access to water play outdoors
- Place the tray indoors on a surface that is safe when wet and easy to mop

Pleanáil/Planning

Plan for children to have

- Daily access to the water tray
- Opportunities to use the area in a wide variety of ways
- Provide small bowls and shallow trays of water as table top activities
- Diversity in presentation—provide water of different colours, temperatures, with and without bubbles, glitter and sequins
- A balance of activities that support each of the areas of learning
- Water in different elemental forms, rainwater, snow, ice
- Monitor and use observations to inform future planning.

Aiseanna/Resources

Many resources for the water area can be used in the sand area, but these should not all be available every day. Basic resources should include:

- A good quality water tray at the appropriate height; clear containers offer more opportunities for observation and investigation while trays with more than one level offer more flexibility
- Planks on which to stand bottles and containers
- Planks with holes for funnels
- Assorted graded containers, jugs and funnels
- Sponges, flannels and towels
- Soap dispensers and squeeze bottles
- Small equipment such as tiny spoons and film containers
- Tea-set, cups, saucers and plates
- Water wheels
- Clear plastic piping, siphons and pumps
- Bubble pipes, blowers
- Cooking utensils, scoops and spoons
- Boats and people
- Fish and fishing nets
- Plastic numbers and letters
- Natural objects, shells, rocks, branches, corks, twigs, gravel, bark, plants
- Items for floating and sinking, wood, foil dishes, pingpong balls
- A lock system
- Small world equipment, animals, people dolls, dolls clothes



Tacaíocht foghlama/ supporting learning

The adult role:

- Ensure that the water area and resources are well maintained and safe.
- Plan to spend time in the water area, acting as a role model in the use of equipment, extending and enhancing play
- Create an exciting environment which stimulates children's creative and imaginative play
- Ask open-ended questions that encourage investigation and help children hypothesise and experiment
- Create situations to encourage talk in an imaginative context
- Introduce, use and reinforce language which is specific to learning in this area.

Eispéireas agus gníomhaíochtaí/experiences and activities

Plan activities that expand the children's knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes.

- Create small world environments that enhance imaginative play. Freeze water in containers. Add ice to the water tray. Add animals that live in cold climates. Colour the water blue or make ice of different colours.
- Provide materials that change the nature of water. Crepe paper. Bags of coloured water.
- Place objects on a plank across the tray and encourage the children to make predictions about what will float or sink.

Teanga/language

Introduce, use and reinforce the specific language of learning in the water area

Buicéad crúiscín síofón doirt tuaslaig súigh isteach
snámh cuir faoi uisce sil braonta draenáil mapáil
tonnta níos mó ná níos lú ná plocóid líonta
folamh boilgeoga cúl beatha na mara

*Bucket jug siphon pour dissolve absorb float sink
drip drops drain mop waves more than less than
plug full empty bubbles foam marine life*