

Science: For this week's learning we would like you to have a go at some of the practical science activities below. Carefully, read through the ideas with an adult and decide which one you are going to have a go at. Remember we would love to see some photographs of your learning!

SCIENCE FOR ONE

straw

Activities for doing **practical science** while **respecting social distancing**

- * Each activity sheet is based around **one easy to obtain resource**
- * Children **work independently** but should be encouraged to talk in pairs or groups
- * Any additional resources needed are minimal and easy to provide for each child
- * Activities are **linked to topics** and suggestions are given for **three age ranges**
- * The activities **can be done outside**.

Science with straws

Paper straws are cheap, recyclable and come in straight or flexible varieties. Either type is suitable for the activities suggested here. Bamboo straws will also work and if necessary, the activities can be done with plastic straws.



AGE 5-7 TALL TOWERS

Give children time to explore their resources and discuss and describe their **properties**, e.g. if they can bend, twist, squash or stretch them.

Challenge the children to use the straws to build a stable structure. They should aim for the tallest structure they can, but it must be able to stand on its own. Start by using just 3 straws, then try with 4 straws and finally, with all 5 straws.

Each time, encourage the children to draw a picture of each structure and record how high it is using a ruler; this could be on a pre-prepared recording table or completed independently. Encourage children to discuss how their structure changed each time and what strategies they used. Ask them if they can identify whether there were any shapes they made or patterns they noticed that made the tower more stable. Ask them to describe what happened each time they added another straw.

Resources per child

- 5 straws (straight or flexible)
- Blob of sticky tack/moulding putty

Science explored

- Properties of materials
- Gathering data and using ideas

Interesting links

- [Engineering our world – Gustave Eiffel and building a tower](#)

SCIENCE FOR ONE

foil

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Science with foil

Foil is cheap, recyclable, and simple to tear and manipulate. It is a good modelling material and its surface is reflective. It also conducts electricity so is useful for teaching circuits.



AGE 5-7 MODELLING BIRDS AND MAMMALS

Challenge children to use one piece of foil to create a bird. Encourage the children to think about the main features of their bird and how they move, and to discuss this with each other.

Next, ask them to choose a mammal to make with their second piece of foil. Before they start, give them time to think and discuss the features of their mammal. Ask them to think about if it is a carnivore, omnivore or herbivore, and how it is similar or different to their bird. Create a class aviary or zoo for children to view and identify each other's creations. Extend the activity to include other types of animal.



Resources per child

- Two 30cm x 20cm pieces of foil

Science explored

- Features of animals
- Identifying and classifying living things

Interesting links

- [BBC Bitesize: all about animals](#)
- [Play a sorting game: feed the animals](#)