



## Bottle Rain Gauge

A rain gauge can get the children out in the worst of weathers, but can also help to interest them in meteorology, and if you keep a daily weather record, will encourage all sorts of scientific enquiry.

### Equipment

2 litre drink bottle eg Cola, fizzy water, etc  
Ruler  
Sharp knife  
Scissors  
Gravel  
Duct tape  
Fine tipped permanent pen  
Water

### Method

1. Using a ruler, measure, 24cm from the bottom of your bottle, and mark a line, all the way around the bottle at this point.
2. Screw the lid onto the bottle (this helps keep it rigid) then cut a slit into this line with a sharp knife. (You might want to do this step yourself for the younger children.)
3. Starting at the slit, use the scissors to cut the top off the bottle, around this line.
4. Put the top part of the bottle to one side.
5. Now mark another line, approximately 5cm from the bottom of the bottle, where the sides have straightened out. My bottle had an indented line at this point, so I just used the permanent pen to trace around it.
6. Mark this line with a zero. Then from the zero line, use the ruler to mark out half centimetre increments, up to 15cm.
7. Fill the bottom of the bottle with gravel, up to the zero line.
8. Now take the top of the bottle that you put to one side, turn it upside down and push it into the top of the bottle and secure in place using duct tape.
9. Pour in water up to the zero line, to ensure that your future rain measurements are from an accurate baseline.
10. Place the rain gauge outdoors, away from buildings and overhanging trees.

### Areas of learning and development:

Math (Mathematics)  
UW (Understanding the World)  
PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)  
PD (Physical Development)  
EAD (Expressive Arts and Design)

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