

Spy Box



As the new year begins and brings more dark afternoons, children need an outlet for their energy. A useful idea is to create a free-access Spy Box and let the children use their imaginations to develop great games and craft opportunities. The contents of your Spy Box can be as intricate or as basic as you can afford - many toy suppliers, such as Argos will sell spy toys, but it isn't necessary to spend a lot of money to get their imaginations fired up.

A Spy Box is great for both indoor and outdoor play, so will be used whatever the weather.

Suggested equipment

- Disguises: Hats, sunglasses, joke noses etc
- Binoculars/monocular
- Eye patches - these can be made from funky foam and shirring elastic
- Magnifying glass
- Torches
- Compass
- Camouflage jackets
- Small note pads and pens
- Walkie-talkies, old mobile 'phones
- Watches
- Small rucksacks
- Maps (can be printed from Ordnance Survey website)



You can supplement these with some of the more expensive spy toys if you like, such as listening devices or voice changers but the children will have just as much fun without. eBay can be a very cost-effective source of bulk purchases such as cheap sunglasses.

Activities

1. Secret writing, using lemon juice and / or candle wax.
2. Plotting co-ordinates and routes for a rendezvous
3. Creating coded messages
4. Set a secret mission
5. Creating fake ID cards
6. Making disguises



See our Facebook page for lots more photos of this activity

Areas of learning and development:

KUW (Knowledge and Understanding of the World)
CD (Creative Development)
PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)
PD (Physical development)
CLL (Communications, Language and Literacy)