

Wind Catchers



See our Facebook page for more photos of this activity

(With thanks to Lilla A who first gave us this idea.)

These wind catchers are really effective and look great in any kind of breeze. The youngest children might need some help with punching out the holes for the handle and with the glue gun.

Equipment:

- Washed empty tin cans
- Tin-opener
- Paint (eg 'satinwood' or spray paint)
- Hammer and nails
- String or gardening wire
- Marker pens, felt-tips, coloured paints etc
- Plastic fly curtain or large plastic bags or rip-stop nylon, etc (for streamers)
- Glue gun
- Duct tape
- Optional embellishments: jewels, stickers, bells, etc

Method:

1. Use the hammer and nail to punch two holes on opposite sides of the tin near the closed end. It is easier to do this before you remove the bottom as the tin is stiffer.
2. Use the tin-opener to remove the bottom of the tin. If it leaves sharp edges, cover these neatly with duct tape.
3. Paint the outside of the tins completely and leave to dry. You could spray paint them but we found ordinary 'satinwood' decorating paint worked well and dries fairly quickly.
4. Thread string or wire through the holes near the rim to form a handle.
5. Decorate the outside of the tin with coloured paints, felt pens, stick on jewels etc. Sharpies work really well.
6. Cut lengths of plastic (or rip-stop nylon) to form the streamers, approx 2cm x 70cm. A mixture of lengths looks good. You could flatten out and cut up large plastic bags but we found that the strips from a plastic fly curtain were perfect (and very cheap!) Funky patterned shoelaces from our local pound shop worked well too.
7. Use the glue gun to stick the ends of the streamers inside the bottom of the tin.
8. Hang outside and admire!

Areas of learning and development:

CD (Creative Development)
KUW (Knowledge and Understanding of the World)
PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)