

Practical activities for primary aged children at home during extended periods of school closure

Are there practical activities that children could do safely at home?

If you are faced with a period of school closure and you want to suggest some practical activities that children could safely carry out at home, science activities can be ideal. However, some children may not be supervised and some may have younger siblings. Remember, your children's safety is still your responsibility.

However, this does not mean that there are no suitable practical activities that could be safely carried out by your children at home to get them thinking scientifically.

The good news is we have plenty of options and with this in mind we have reviewed our activities and selected those that are most appropriate to use in these circumstances. They use resources that they may already have at home or if not, should be readily available from high street stores.

These activities are fun, contain excellent science and can easily be used creatively by teachers to explore scientific ideas at different levels – for example through the addition of more challenging questions or a research task.

How to use these resources

Remember even though the resources are written very clearly they are intended for use by a qualified teacher and not a parent or other member of the general public.

As a teacher you will need to decide how best to use the activity and indeed if the activity is suitable and safe for your children at home.

Do's and don'ts

- Don't give children/parents access to the CLEAPSS website
- Don't send the CLEAPSS document home – it is not intended to be a child worksheet
- Do review the activity in the light of what you know about your children's capabilities and home life
- Do add additional notes where you think these will help children do the activity successfully and safely
- Do add additional questions to link the activity to the learning you wish for the pupils
- Do remind parents to stick to the procedure you've given and not to change it

Remember if you need help, contact CLEAPSS, we're here to help.

List of activities

Suitable Activities

CLEAPSS Code	Title of Guide	Link to guide	Any additional comments
P095	Making a wormery and observing worms	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P095-Making-a-wormery-and-observing-worms.aspx	-

P090	Seeing stars – making a constellation viewer	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource-File/P090-Seeing-stars-making-a-constellation-viewer.pdf	-
P087	Flappy bat	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P087-Flappy-bat.aspx	-
P085	Making and successfully throwing a boomerang	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P085-Making-and-successfully-throwing-a-boomerang.aspx	-
P084	Overflow - Using water displacement to measure volume	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P084-Overflow-using-water-displacement-to-measure-volume.aspx	-
P083	Making trace fossils	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P083-Making-trace-fossils.aspx	-
P077	Double bubble	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P077-Double-bubble.aspx	-
P071	Blast Off!	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P071-Blast-off.aspx	-
P070	Making ice cream without a freezer	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P70-Making-ice-cream-without-a-freezer.aspx	-
P068	Choosing and using colour	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P068-Choosing-and-using-colour.aspx	-
P067	Pop up spring chick	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P067-Pop-up-spring-chick.aspx	-
P056	How does Vitruvian Man stand up today?	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P056-How-does-Vitruvian-Man-stand-up-today.aspx	-
P053	Make your own freshwater food chain	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P053-Make-your-own-freshwater-food-chain-mobile.aspx	-
P054	Freshwater food chains and food web resource	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P054-Freshwater-food-chains-and-food-web-resource.aspx	-
P055	Hatching spring chick	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P055-Hatching-spring-chick.aspx	-
P049	Glitter Germs	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P049-Glitter-germs.aspx	-
P001	Investigating indicators	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P001-Investigating-indicators.aspx	-
P025	Vinegar and bicarbonate balloons	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P025-Vinegar-and-bicarbonate-balloons.aspx	Can be a little messy
P024	Sunshine absorbency	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P024-Sunshine-absorbency.aspx	-
P005	Investigating soaps and detergents	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P005-Investigating-soaps-and-detergents.aspx	-

This document supports teachers planning practical activities. It is not designed as a worksheet for classroom use

P089	Dissolving jelly	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P089-Dissolving-jelly.aspx	-
P072	Straw shooter rocket	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P072-Straw-shooter-rocket.aspx	-
P066	Making bath bombs	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P066-Making-bath-bombs.aspx	-
P034	Separating inks simple method	http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/Resource/P034-Separating-inks-simple-method.aspx	-

Unsuitable Activities

CLEAPSS Code	Title of Guide
P086	Spinning spirals
P080	Fire writing
P064	Pond dipping
P057	Vinegar and bicarbonate fire extinguisher demonstration
P021	Looking closely at the parts of a flower
P035	Making a light-up greetings card using copper tape circuits
P006	Growing fungi on food
P018	Investigating burning
P075	Absorbent materials
P073	Lights on lights off
P058	Density cocktail
P052	Floating liquids
P023	Steady hand game
P043	Using UV bead bracelets to study light
P040	Testing food samples for starch
P014	Separating felt pen ink colours
P078	Glue from milk
P081	Quick and easy cakes
P079	Inseparable books
P076	Balloon Kebabs
P074	Lava lamp
P050	Iron for breakfast
P042	Slime time
P002	Investigating heating and melting