

Photography activity idea

Encourage children to explore and show interest in real technological objects with this photography activity idea.

Resources

- Disposable cameras or digital cameras
- Printer
- Box or basket to keep cameras in
- Ribbon or string to make a handle if the camera doesn't have its own.



Activity outline

- Use ribbon or string to make handles if needed
- In small groups show the children how the camera works – looking through the viewfinder and clicking the button (and winding on with disposable cameras)
- If you are using disposable cameras, explain that the photos will be stored on the camera (this is different from what many of them are used to as they normally see the display on a digital camera or phone/tablet). You might like to have some examples of photos that you have taken using a disposable camera to show the children
- If a group are using the camera together then make a list of the children's names and what they took photos of; you could also add their narrative to use later in the display
- In small groups talk to the children about what photos they are going to take – you might like to have a particular focus e.g. a special event, going on a local trip, a number/colour/shape or letter walk, or taking photos of our friends. Why not ask them to take pictures of where they like to play? Or what they like best at nursery? Or allow them to freely explore
- Support the children to take photos, and remember that children see the world very differently from us so allow the children to take the images they are interested in
- Collect the cameras in and show the children where they are kept, either in a box or in the children's individual spaces. Encourage the children to take more photos during the session on their own and return the camera to its special place
- When the disposable cameras are finished, get the film developed - ideally as soon as possible to keep the children's interest. If you have a shop locally then plan a local trip with the children to take the cameras and then collect the developed film. For safeguarding reasons, it is best not to send them in the post as they may get lost and the photos may include images of children
- For digital cameras, upload the photos onto a computer and ask the children to select the ones they would like to keep. You can then print off, enlarge, show on slide shows and use on interactive whiteboards. You can use software like Photoshop to extend the activity following the children's interests
- Share the photos with the children and talk about them, recording their comments. Make photo albums and displays, and you might like to invite parents in to view the children's photographic exhibition when coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

Special considerations

- *Ensure that you have all the required policies and procedures in place if you are using photographic images in your setting and that they cover: the use of cameras by children as well as staff, students, volunteers and parents; how the images will be stored and what you do as a setting to ensure the safety of the children*
- *Ensure that you have parental permission from parents for children to take photographs and to be included in photographs taken by other children. It is good practice to inform parents of this activity as part of your ongoing communication with them*
- *Ensure that you keep cameras, tablets, and other image devices securely stored when not in use in the setting*



Young children

Don't be frightened to let young children handle the real thing! They are surrounded by technology and if they are shown how to use and care for something they soon become experts and will probably teach you a thing or two!