



Activity Idea

Activity	Rainbow Pasta
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Possibilities for maths learning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counting	<input type="checkbox"/> Composition	<input type="checkbox"/> Cardinality
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subitise	<input type="checkbox"/> Comparison	<input type="checkbox"/> Measure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pattern	<input type="checkbox"/> Spatial awareness

Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A variety of dried pasta ➤ Food colouring ➤ Vinegar ➤ Recycled container with lid ➤ Drying rack
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Activity Outline	<p>Creating different coloured pasta is a low cost way to make maths manipulatives which children can use to count, sort, explore shape properties and create a variety of patterns.</p> <p>How to Dye Pasta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place pasta in a recycled container that has a tight fitting lid. (If you are dyeing different types of pasta different colours then use a different container for each colour) • Add a generous dollop of food colouring with a teaspoon of vinegar. The vinegar helps to disperse the colour evenly over the pasta, especially if you're using gel colouring which is quite thick compared to liquid colouring. • Stir the pasta or if the lid is tight enough you can close it and shake. • Pop the lid off to check the coverage. If your colour isn't evenly distributed, sprinkle with another teaspoon of vinegar. Don't worry if the pasta looks wet or soggy, it will dry quickly. The smell of vinegar will also dissipate as it dries. • Once you are happy with the colour pour onto a drying rack, and sit in a warm sunny place to dry. Depending on the temperature, you may need to let your pasta dry overnight.
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Extension Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continue with the pasta theme – secure sticks of dried spaghetti into blobs of blue tack and use these to thread different colour pasta such as penne and rigatoni to make repeating patterns.
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