



Activity Idea

Activity	Making Outdoor Scales									
Possibilities for maths learning	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Counting</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Composition</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Cardinality</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Subitise</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Comparison</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measure</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Shape</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Pattern</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Spatial Awareness</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Counting	<input type="checkbox"/> Composition	<input type="checkbox"/> Cardinality	<input type="checkbox"/> Subitise	<input type="checkbox"/> Comparison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measure	<input type="checkbox"/> Shape	<input type="checkbox"/> Pattern	<input type="checkbox"/> Spatial Awareness
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Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Broom handle or similar sized stick ➤ Wooden coat hanger ➤ Nails ➤ Hammer ➤ Two identical buckets ➤ A larger bucket filled with sand or gravel ➤ Spirit level 									
Activity Outline	<p>Introduce the activity by asking the children if they know what scales are. You could show them examples of kitchen or toy scales. Ask them if they know how they work, what does it measure, which side is heaviest etc.</p> <p>Hammer a nail into the broom handle, make sure this is in the middle of the pole and close to the top. Make sure to leave some of the nail sticking out to allow room for the coat hanger. Place the pole into the bucket of sand or gravel and make sure it is secure and stands straight upright.</p> <p>Hammer a nail into each bottom corner of the coat hanger. It is important to make sure these are in the same place on both sides to ensure the scales work correctly. Again leave some of the nail sticking out to allow room for the buckets to hang.</p> <p>Hang the coat hanger on the pole and make sure it moves freely without catching on the pole. Place the buckets on each side of the coat hanger and use a spirit level to make sure it is hanging straight.</p> <p>Now you can encourage the children to use the scales using items they can find in the outdoor area. Select two items such as a stick and a pebble. Ask the children which they think is heavier and why. Use the scales to test this out.</p> <p>After the initial session you can leave the scales as part of your outdoor continuous provision to allow children to continue to explore and test their own theories.</p>									
Extension Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Older children may want to help you create the scales so make sure this has been appropriately risk assessed and the children know the rules for using tools and following instructions. ✓ Once you have created the scales see if the children can copy and make their own. 									

- ✓ You could make a larger version using a fence post and larger buckets to allow for larger heavier items.

