

Build a Dam

Try being a beaver and use your ingenuity to create a real life dam. Find natural products to stop and divert a water flow.

Beavers use logs, mud and stones to create partial dams and create pools. These provide protection and food storage. They also create new wetland habitat which increases the number of species. The dams are also natural flood control, allowing excess water to pass but slowing the flow.

Activity:

If you have access to a natural running brook or stream then this is the ideal venue. A wet day may provide running water in gutters or into puddles.

A water flow can be artificially created using a hose or bucket of water. A river channel can be created by digging a shallow trench in the grass. Plastic sheets or even foil can be shaped in a long shallow V channel, propped up using stones. Alternatively use old guttering or shallow containers. A micro version can be played with on a lego board with a lego dam or diversions.

Now find and make a pile of natural materials such as stones, leaves, twigs and mud.

Build a creation to

1. Slow up the water flow
2. Stop the water flow
3. Change the direction of the water flow

If using a bucket or hose, add the water once the dam you've created is ready to be tested.

Notes:

Beaver Dams: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beaver_dam

Man-made dams, good or bad? Hydroelectricity produces renewable energy, but large dams can stop an ecosystem. Many animals requiring access up and down a river and sediment needs to move naturally down towards the floodplains.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_impact_of_reservoirs

Physical Skill

*Develop and acquire technical knowledge and skills
Develop physical skills that they can adapt and apply*

Time:

30 min+

Space:

Garden, Park

Equipment:

Any loose natural materials. Maybe Hose / Bucket, Sheet / Guttering

