

LET'S PLAY!

SHADOW GAMES

Use a variety of shadow games to better understand the sun and sun protection.

Materials Needed:

If you're setting up a shadow invitation indoors you might need flashlights, projectors or the sun shining through a window. If you're heading outside make sure children are protected with sunscreen, clothing, hats, and sunglasses!

Discovering Your Shadow

Invite children to discover their shadows.

- Can you stand beside your shadow?
- Can you stand in front of your shadow? Behind your shadow?
- Can your shadow be on two sides of you at once?
- What happens if you try to move away from your shadow? Does it follow you?
- What happens to your shadow if you stand still?

Use Shadows to Learn Math

Shadow games can be used to develop math skills such as sorting and measuring.

- Try to make your shadow different lengths. How can you make your shadow smaller? Larger? Shorter? Taller?
- Can you sort yourselves by the length of your shadows? Try to line up, shortest shadow to longest.

Make Fun Shadow Shapes

Invite children to manipulate their shadows by moving their arms, legs, and bodies to make funny shapes.

- Who can make their shadow look like an animal? What kind of animal are you?
- What happens to your shadows when you stand beside a friend? What shapes can you make together? With three friends?

Make Shadow Puppets

Set up an art invitation, providing the children with materials to create shadow puppets out of popsicle sticks, tape, glue, and construction paper. On sunny days, bring your shadow puppets outside or use them in your light exploration areas around the room. For example: beside windows, with projectors or flash lights.

- What happens when you hold your puppet between the sun and the wall/ground?
- Can you make your puppet smaller? Bigger?
- Can you create a shadow puppet show with all of your puppets?

Play Shadow Tag

Shadow tag follows the rules of regular tag. One person is 'it'. They tag another person by standing in their shadow. The last person out wins!