



Lets face it, rain is part of life on our little green island. It happens, and it happens often. So why let it dampen the fun? As long as children are wearing proper wet weather gear, rain can actually add to the opportunities for creative play.

On rainy days it can help to have a few activities and props up your sleeve; so here are a few ideas to get kids outside playing - even in a deluge.

Rivers of colour

Use chalks to draw outside in the rain, watch how the rain washes them away and how different the marks look in the wet. Add food colouring or non-toxic paint to puddles and watch it spread.

Collect and funnel

Put out old containers of different shapes and sizes and watch which ones fill up first and talk about why. Use funnels, buckets, half tubes, plastic straws and get the kids to hold them up and make a water race. Add detergent to make big bubbles.

Build shelters

Bring out tarpaulins or old shower curtains – good for making waterproof dens or for playing parachute games.

Make music!

Get some different materials - metal baking trays, plastic bottles etc and use water to make an orchestra.

Turn explorer

Hunt for mini beasts: snails and worms love the rain, and with snails you can race them against one another. Plan a 'treasure' hunt - leaves, stones, sticks etc.

Umbrella choreography

Dancing (and singin') in the rain! Get the kids to create an umbrella dance routine and film each other.

Puddle fun

Jump, skip, hop, run, gallop, walk, through or over puddles – make it into a competition for who can make the biggest splash

Make a mud kitchen or cafe

Give the children some old pans and spoons and a pile of mud. If you're worried about cleaning up later, put a plastic sheet down or use some old baking trays.

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