

EARLY STAGE 1 SCIENCE

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES TO LEARN ABOUT THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Learning intention: Activities are designed to engage students with the outdoors, investigating how push and pull forces create movement and introducing the concepts of force and motion.

Activity 1: On the hunt for things that move

Go for a short walk outside. Try to find as many things that you can that are moving – birds flying, leaves falling, ants crawling, clothes flapping on the line and so on. How many different things can you find that are moving? Draw a picture of each of the things you have found and make a statement about the way in which they are moving.

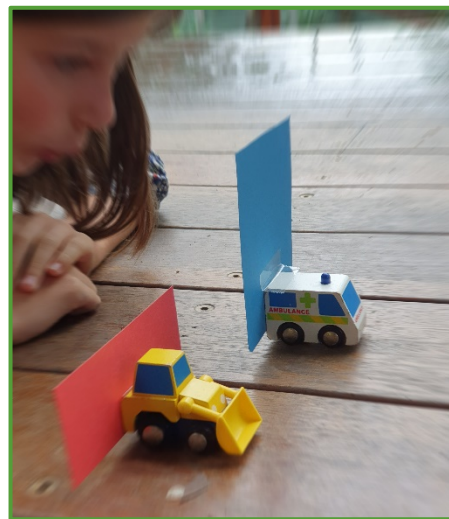
Extension activity: How many different ways can you make your own body move? Try jumping, skipping, hopping and crawling. How else can you move? Make an obstacle course that you need to complete in a certain amount of time. For an extra challenge, try to include a variety of movements in your course (for example, hop to the clothesline or jump over the path).

Activity 2: Wind power

Find or make two toy cars. Create two different sized/shaped 'sails' using cardboard and attach them to the back of your cars using masking tape.

Without touching your cars, see if you can make them move by using wind power (blowing air into the sails). Which car can you make travel the furthest with a single blow? Ask someone to join you – choose a car each and have a race!

Extension activity: How did the shape or size of your sails affect the distance your cars travelled? Make a variety of different shaped sails and test them out on your cars. Which one worked the best?



Activity 3: Floating forces

Half fill a bucket with water and take it outside. Look around your house or yard to find objects you can place in the water to test whether they float or sink.

- Can you find 5 items that float on top of the water? Record your findings by drawing pictures of these items on a page titled 'Things that float'.
- Can you find 5 items that sink to the bottom of the bucket? Record your findings by drawing pictures of these items on a page titled 'Things that sink'.

Extension activity: Build a mini raft by joining straws or paddle pop sticks together using masking tape. Does your raft float? Test how much your raft can carry by placing coins on top of it. How many coins can your raft hold before it starts to sink?

