

Dam Building

Can your busy little beavers match the skills of the real deal?

All

Play-based
Learning



Activity

Find a suitable site where there is a small flow of water after rainfall. Alternatively set up shallow waterproof containers outside. Challenge the children to use the natural materials around them to try and control the movement of the water.

Maybe they can:

- Slow it down
- Stop it completely and form a pool
- Change the direction of the flow

If you are using containers, the children will need to build the dam first before you add water behind it and observe how the water flows. You may want to tilt to container slightly.

What You'll Need:

- A small stream, flowing surface water after rainfall or large, shallow waterproof containers and access to water
- Natural loose materials e.g. mud, sticks and stones
- Waterproof clothing and footwear

Useful Tips!

Give your dam building STEM challenge a real-world context by linking it to how beavers affect their landscape using natural materials to block the flow of rivers.

Beavers build a dam to create a deep, still pool of water where they can make their lodge (home) and be safer from predators. The dam slows the water so that their lodge doesn't get washed away. The pool is also where they store fresh branches under water as a tasty food source in winter.

This task could be completed using Lego™ too. Which works better?

For more resources visit www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources

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