

Summer is here!

Books about the beach

Hopefully we can all get to a beach at some stage over the summer. Here are some books and activities based on the beach.

A Beach Tail

Read aloud of the book while at the beach <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swbvrodUdIM>

Beach Day

Read aloud of the book <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwfA0FfAt7E>

Sharing a shell

Sharing a shell song https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxbYzl4_DDg

Sharing a shell read aloud <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpJumAZx1t8>

Sharing a shell resources <https://www.twinkl.ie/resources/story-books/q-s-story-books-story-primary-resources-english-key-stage-1/story-books-sharing-a-shell>

Sharing a shell resources for older/more able children
<https://www.teachingideas.co.uk/library/books/sharing-a-shell>

Sharing a shell game and dot-to-dot <https://www.kiddycharts.com/printables/printable-sharing-a-shell-activities/>

Commotion in the Ocean

Commotion in the Ocean read aloud <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pRhgz8Jffs>

Commotion in the Ocean resources <https://www.twinkl.ie/resources/story-books/a-d-story-books-story-primary-resources-english-key-stage-1/commotion-in-the-ocean-story-primary-teaching-resources>

Mister Seahorse

Mister Seahorse read aloud <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yogxhli4HbQ>

Mister Seahorse printable activities
<http://www.makinglearningfun.com/OceanMrSeahorsePrintables.htm>

Lots of colouring in pages of sea animals <https://coloring-pages-printable.com/sea-animals-coloring-pages/>

If you have Netflix, the Octonauts are a cartoon based on animals in the sea
<https://www.netflix.com/title/80020935>

National Geographic have some amazing undersea videos
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/nature/habitats/ocean/>

Sensory experiences based on the beach/river/lake

Create a beach sensory experience at home. Use some sand (you'll get sand at your local builders' providers if you can't get play sand or sand from the beach. If you are taking sand from a beach make sure you are allowed to do so by your local authority. Sand for building might be coarser than play/beach sand) in or beside a paddling pool or basin of water. Put some salt in the water to recreate the sea salt experience if you are recreating a beach. You can also add stones, leaves, sticks, seaweed, plastic fish etc. to help to recreate the experience. Lots of children are startled by the 'other stuff' in the sea or lake or river when they go for the first time.

Sensory bin based on the sea <https://funlearningforkids.com/sand-water-ocean-sensory-bin/>

Sensory discovery bottles <https://nurturestore.co.uk/make-sensory-discovery-bottles>

Some general summer themed activities

Easy three ingredient no machine ice cream recipe <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/no-churn-ice-cream>

What am I? sea creatures PowerPoint <https://www.twinkl.ie/resource/t-t-5515-under-the-sea-what-am-i-interactive-powerpoint-game>

Boardmaker 'What can we do in summer?' <https://boardmakeronline.com/Activity/1589326>

Printable summer bingo <https://www.5minutesformom.com/91643/summer-bingo-game-free-printables/>

Water safety resources at home <https://www.teachpaws.ie/>

Summer songs

I love summertime <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg5i9rxuJM>

Mr. Sun, Mr. Golden Sun <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlzvrEfyL2Y>

There's a hole in the bottom of the sea <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UK6UNRnbfmw>

Down in the deep blue sea <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pMEQsk3c5Y>

The bees go buzzing (with numbers and actions)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWUgZm_AE64

Sunflowers!

Every year in infant classes the children learn about some famous artists – usually one per term. In summer they often learn about Van Gogh and the books *Katie and the Sunflowers* and *Katie and the Starry Night* are big hits with the children. There are a series of books featuring Katie so if your child enjoyed them there are lots more! There are also lovely books featuring a girl called Camille exploring art and again, these are very popular with the class. These are linked below. Classes will usually take a trip to a local museum and art gallery to reinforce what we have explored in the books in real life.

Katie and the Sunflowers read aloud <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLx3O02aqyl>

Resources based on the book <https://www.teachingideas.co.uk/library/books/katie-and-the-sunflowers>

Van Gogh and the Sunflowers read aloud <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0nBIRFLzJw>

Some ideas for older/more able children based on 'Sunflowers'
https://www.vangoghgallery.com/lesson_plans/

Katie and the Starry Night <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAPjNMSc4M>

Resources based on the book <https://www.twinkl.ie/book/katie-and-the-starry-night>

Cotton bud art based on Katie and the Starry Night
<http://www.rubberbootsandelfshoes.com/2016/12/starry-night-read-and-paint.html>

Hopefully we may be able to take children to an art gallery or museum over the summer. They will have worksheets for children that you can bring with you on the day to help their experience if you want to. Just looking at art or artefacts is a wonderful way to explore and develop oral language with children and all museums welcome children to visit. Don't be intimidated or trying to shush your child – that day is gone! Virtual galleries and museums are online now also.

Van Gogh Museum (see the Sunflower paintings in 'real life')
<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/van-gogh-museum?hl=en>

Lots of other museums, zoos etc. are linked here: <https://ncse.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Special-Schools-are-going-On-a-Virtual-Tour.pdf>

Art: We plant sunflowers to link their growing in summer with the book and paint lots of lovely sunny yellow sunflowers in the style of Van Gogh. We will also work with paper, fabric and other material to make some 3D sunflowers and starry night collages, based on our picture books.

Paper plate sunflowers <https://iheartcraftythings.com/paper-plate-sunflower-craft.html>

Handprint sunflowers <https://www.artcraftykids.com/art/easy-handprint-sunflower-craft/>

Lots of art ideas here <https://www.playideas.com/25-van-gogh-inspired-art-projects-kids/>

SESE/growing and changing (plants): If you are planting sunflowers or have them in your garden this might be a lovely book to explore with your child. Sunflowers are great seeds to grow – they will sprout quickly and you can plant them in tall milk cartons, start them on your window and then plant them in the carton into the ground when all the frost is gone. You can grow the dwarf varieties in milk cartons and keep them on a sunny window sill. You will find you will use lots of maths language around their growth and height so it is an ideal time to link the gardening theme from earlier with maths, literacy and art.

Guide to growing sunflowers with children <http://kidsinthegarden.co.uk/plants-for-kids/how-to-grow-your-own-sunflowers-with-your-kids/>

Grover talks about plants <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDjFZVqiLvY>

Sunflower song for kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heuE74YRrac>

How the sunflower gets its name <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Mz-bF3Z6RQ>

The Rainbow Fish

The Rainbow Fish is a lovely story about friendship, sharing and caring. The simple illustrations really lend themselves to creating simple art, craft and colouring in activities and as it is such a popular book, you will find lots of resources to support it online.

The Rainbow Fish read aloud <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9mryuEKkKc>

Lots of resources here <https://www.twinkl.com/resources/story-books/t-v-story-books-story-primary-resources-english-key-stage-1/the-rainbow-fish-story-primary-teaching-resources>

Some lovely interactive resources here for senior infant level
<https://www.scoilnet.ie/uploads/resources/12489/12126.pdf>