


# Wet playtime pack

Eight simple indoor games  
for rainy days in primary  
schools

A hand is shown reaching into a brown cardboard box. The box has a circular hole on top. On the front of the box, there is a white rectangular label with the text 'MYSTERY SENSORY BOX' in bold, dark blue capital letters. To the right of the label, there are three white starburst graphics. The background is a bright blue gradient with a blurred image of a child's arm and hand reaching into the box.

**MYSTERY  
SENSORY  
BOX**

*Top tip: Print and keep this pack somewhere handy for those surprise indoor breaktimes!*

## Welcome!

Rainy playtimes don't have to mean last-minute panic. This pack is here to help – full of fun, low-prep games that keep things moving when going outside isn't an option.

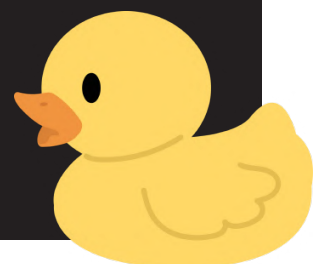
Designed with busy teachers in mind, each activity included is quick to set up, light on resources and designed with real classrooms in mind, with a mix of movement, creativity and quick thinking built in.

*Whether you've got five minutes to fill or a whole wet lunchtime to get through, there's something in here to keep things fun, focused and flowing.*



## What's inside:

1. Mystery sensory box
2. Find the rainbow
3. Musical statues
4. Balloon keep-up challenge
5. Hot potato
6. Musical chairs
7. 20 questions
8. Movement parade



## Mystery sensory box

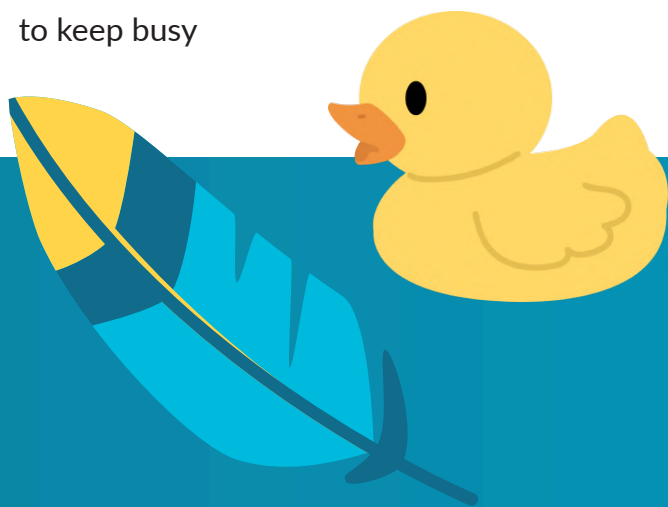
A fun guessing game that sparks curiosity and gets brains ticking.

### What you'll need:

- A box or bag that children can't see into
- A few familiar but interesting objects  
(Lego brick, sponge, rubber ball, feather...)

### Why it works:

- Great for developing language and descriptive skills
- Encourages curiosity and confidence
- Ideal for when you've got a small group to keep busy



**Variation: Let children bring in their own (teacher-approved) mystery items to stump the rest of the class!**

## How to play:

1. Place one object inside the box.
2. One at a time, children reach in and feel around without looking.
3. Ask them to describe the texture – smooth, bumpy, squishy?
4. They then try to guess what the object might be.

## Find the rainbow

A colourful scavenger hunt that gets children moving.

### What you'll need:

- Everyday classroom objects or coloured cards

### Why it works:

- Gets children up and exploring
- Builds vocabulary and colour recognition
- Easy to tweak for other themes  
(e.g. shapes, initial letters)



## How to play:

1. Challenge children to find objects around the room for each colour of the rainbow.
2. This can be done in teams or individually.
3. Optional: ask a fun question after each item is found ("Can you name a fruit that's this colour?")

## Musical statues

A lively game that's all about quick reactions and silly poses.

### What you'll need:

- A speaker or anything that plays music

### Why it works:

- Burns off energy quickly
- Easy to adapt for different age groups
- Easy to explain and quick to start



*Top tip: Get pupils to suggest their favourite songs or create a class playlist to keep it fresh.*

## How to play:

1. Start the music and let children dance around the room.
2. When the music stops, they must freeze like a statue.
3. Anyone who moves is out.
4. Add themes: freeze like animals, letters or in funny poses.

## Balloon keep-up challenge

Simple, fun and full of teamwork.

### What you'll need:

- Balloons (the more the better!)

### Why it works:

- Gets the whole class moving together
- Encourages teamwork
- Improves coordination and focus



*Top tip: Let the children decide on their own challenge rules - they might surprise you with creative ideas!*

## How to play:

1. Toss a balloon in the air - the aim is to keep it up at all costs.
2. No catching allowed - only taps using hands, feet, elbows or heads.
3. Add extra balloons for more chaos, or change the rules to mix it up (elbows only, no talking).

## Musical chairs

Lively, competitive fun with a musical twist.

### What you'll need:

- Enough chairs for all but one pupil
- Music

### Why it works:

- Great for groups with lots of energy
- Can last 5 minutes or fill a whole session
- Teaches quick reactions and learning to lose with a smile

*Top tip: Want a non-elimination version? Try sitting in pairs or adding in a "challenge card" for anyone left standing.*



## How to play:

1. Set up the chairs back-to-back or in a circle.
2. Children walk or dance around the chairs while music plays.
3. When it stops, they scramble for a seat – one child is left standing.
4. Remove a chair each round until there's one winner.

## 20 questions

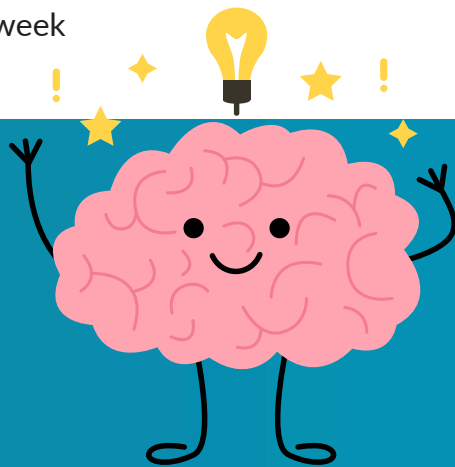
Think it through and ask the right questions!

### What you'll need:

- Just your imagination (or a few category prompts if needed)

### Why it works:

- Builds logic, listening and patience
- Works really well with mixed ages
- You can link it to your topic or theme of the week



**Top tip:** Use picture prompts or a whiteboard word bank to support younger pupils.

## How to play:

1. One child thinks of something – a person, place or object.
2. The rest of the class takes turns asking yes/no questions to guess.
3. If no one guesses after 20 questions, the thinker reveals the answer.
4. Whoever guesses correctly goes next.



## Movement parade

A feel-good follow-the-leader game with playful moves.

### What you'll need:

- Space to march, hop and wiggle
- Optional music

### Why it works:

- Easy to join in, no right or wrong
- Encourages confidence and turn-taking
- Lots of room for creativity (and silliness)

*Top tip: Why not give each leader a theme? Animals, sports, slow motion... let their imaginations run wild.*



## How to play:

1. Children line up behind the leader.
2. The leader does a movement (clap, skip, jump – anything goes).
3. After a few steps, the leader joins the back and someone else takes over.
4. Keep it going until everyone's had a turn.

# Rainy days? No problem.



With just a few simple resources and a little creativity, indoor playtimes can be just as fun and lively as outdoor ones. Whether it's an energetic game like balloon keep-up or a quick-thinking challenge like 20 questions, having a few go-to favourites ready to go makes all the difference.

And when it comes to creating more flexible space for learning and play – whatever the weather – a well-placed canopy can be a great addition to your school grounds. Many schools use covered areas to run outdoor lessons, shelter breaktimes or create free-flowing play between the classroom and playground. They're a simple way to make the outdoors work harder, rain or shine.

Find out more at  
[www.canopiesuk.co.uk](http://www.canopiesuk.co.uk)



## Why Canopies UK?

Canopies UK is the country's leading designer, manufacturer and installer of high-quality outdoor canopies. With over 5,000 installations across schools and nurseries nationwide, we help create all-weather spaces where children can learn, play and thrive.

Based in Lancashire and with more than 30 years' experience, we work closely with schools to provide covered walkways, outdoor classrooms, dining shelters and playground canopies – all designed to suit your setting.

Not sure where to start? We've helped hundreds of schools make the most of the space they've got – and we're happy to help you do the same.

Visit  
Call  
Email

[www.canopiesuk.co.uk](http://www.canopiesuk.co.uk)  
01254 777 002  
[info@canopiesuk.co.uk](mailto:info@canopiesuk.co.uk)