Take It Outside Maths KS1

Beat the Obstacle Course!

Introduction

This outdoor activity encourages children to work together to create an obstacle course and use timers to record their times and those of their friends. You may wish to theme the obstacle course around the class topic or a sporting event, such as show jumping or sports day.

You will need:

- An outdoor space,
- Stopwatches,
- PE equipment such as hoops, skipping ropes, cones and balls.

Key Questions

- What did you notice?
- What did you learn?
- What would you like to try?
- What was easy?
- What was difficult?
- What vocabulary did you use?
- What can you do now?
- Which was the fastest time?
- Can you beat your personal best? How much faster did you become?

What to do:

1. Explain to the children that you are going to be creating an obstacle course in your outdoor space. If you are theming this to tie in with a sporting event, such as show jumping or dog agility, you may wish to show the children a clip of the relevant sport at this point. You may wish to further engage the children by asking them to be in character as a horse or dog when completing the course, or even provide hobby horses for the children to use!
2. Show children a variety of resources that are available for them to use in creating their obstacle course. Explain the importance of completing an obstacle course in

order. Provide examples using the PE equipment available to your group e.g. jump through the hoop, weave in and out of the cones (slalom), and hop over the skipping rope.

3. Split children into small groups. Each group should create their own obstacle course in a section of your outdoor learning area. How will you know which way to go? How will you know where to start/finish? Provide paper and pens for children to make signs/labels/instructions as needed.
4. Provide each group with a clipboard, pencil and stopwatch. Model how to start, stop and reset their stopwatch. Children should take it in turns to complete the obstacle course and record times.
5. Bring the class together. Think, pair, share findings using the key questions above.

Ways to Support

Some children may need adult support to use the stopwatch and record times. Support by using a sand timer and challenge children to beat the timer.

Ways to Extend:

Ask children to order the times achieved and compare with other teams. Which was the fastest obstacle course? Why do you think that is?

Curriculum Links:

Maths: Compare, describe and solve practical problems for time, measure and begin to record time, compare and sequence intervals of time.

Physical education: Master basic movements including running, jumping, throwing and catching, as well as developing balance, agility and co-ordination, and begin to apply these in a range of activities.