

Mathematical moments with 3 & 4 year olds

Spatial reasoning

Puddle jumping



Children love jumping in puddles- but did you know that there are so many mathematical opportunities linked to this childhood activity?

The size of the puddle is always a great conversation starter: *Is it deep? It's really big.* This is also an opportunity to layer lots of new language such as *gigantic, enormous, massive* and *tiny*.

The children also learn how deep the puddle is when they wade through it and compare depths: *This one is very deep - up to the top of my wellies.*

Our children will always try to splash all of the water out - they learn that the bigger the jump the more water splashes out: *Sam, look at my big splash!*

Children notice the shapes of the ripples when a friend jumps in the puddle: *Wow, it looks like a circle.*

They like to see the reflection of themselves or their friends in puddles: *I can see me* (which is great for their sense of self).

And they love the pattern made by falling rain:
Sam, I can see little circles!

Also, puddle jumping is so much fun!



Acknowledgement:

Sam Goldsworthy, Childminder