



Rainbow colour collectors

The story

It's a wonderful sunny day. Cosmic and Gem have gone to the park with Aunt Stella. They have had fantastic fun whizzing down the slide. Now they are going on the swings. Suddenly splish, splash, tiny raindrops start to fall.

“Oh dear,” says Gem. “Oh dear,” says Cosmic. But Aunt Stella simply smiles and points behind them. There across the sky is a rainbow. It is the most beautiful rainbow that they have ever seen. “Wow!” Cosmic and Gem whisper to each other, afraid that if they speak too loudly the rainbow will go away.

But then, as quickly as it had started, the rain stops. Gradually the rainbow fades away. Cosmic and Gem look sad. “Don't worry,” says Aunt Stella. “Look around you. There's green grass and yellow buttercups. The world is full of colours. You can be rainbow colour collectors and make your own rainbow.”

I wonder if they can? Perhaps we can help them.

What do I do?

1. Follow the structure on the ACTIVITY CARD. Make sure that you give children time to talk where this symbol shows. ► 
2. Read the story. Then get the children to talk to a buddy about the questions and the ideas in the Concept Cartoon.
3. The children will need a colour-collecting palette (see Resources list overleaf), ideally one between two.
4. Tell the children about going to look for the rainbow. Make it sound like an exciting adventure.
5. Show them examples of the things to collect e.g. bits of flowers and leaves.
6. Remind them that they must stay near their helper.
7. When they return they can share what they have found and create a rainbow by putting their palettes together.
8. There are follow up activities for children who have finished or who want to do more finding out at home and earn a bonus sticker.

★ Handy Hints

Background information

- ★ This activity helps children to be more aware of colour in their natural environment. Ideally the activity should focus on natural materials, such as plants, but you can choose to let them add other materials to their palette as well.
- ★ The activity can take place in any location. It does not need a flower-filled garden or to be out in the countryside.
- ★ Talk about which colours are easiest to collect, and why. Can they work out what the colours will be like at different times of the year e.g. more red in autumn, yellow in spring.

Things to look out for

- ★ You may need to encourage children to look carefully to spot the colours.
- ★ Children may be tempted to pull up whole plants. It helps to show them how to take a tiny sample and stick it in the right place on the palette.

Safety

- ★ Ensure that you meet your organisation's safety requirements for outdoor activity.
- ★ Children must wash their hands thoroughly after this activity. Some organisations may require the children to wear gloves.
- ★ Check the area for plants with toxic seeds or plants that might cause irritation. See website for advice www.britishsociety.org/creststar

Resources

Colour-collecting palettes – ideally one between two

- ★ Use a long white strip divided up into 6 sections to represent a simple rainbow. Mark each section with a coloured dot (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) or you could let children do this after their discussion. Alternatively you can give each group a plate-sized circle of just one of these colours so that they focus on one colour.
- ★ You need to cover the palette with small pieces of double-sided tape. This is where they are going to stick their rainbow samples.

How can children share their ideas?

- ★ Share the palettes with each other, then put them on display.

