

# Bottle paddle boats

These cute boats work really well and they are made from cheap materials. But they are a bit fiddly for little fingers so would suit the older children at your club better.

## Equipment

Empty plastic drink bottles with lid

Empty plastic milk cartons

Chopsticks

Duct tape ideally, or parcel tape

Rubber bands

Ruler and pen/pencil

Scissors

Body of water (eg paddling pool) for racing

## Method

1. Measure and mark out four rectangles 4x8cm on the milk carton. Cut them out.
2. Fold each rectangle in half and place them in a cross-shape (see photo).
3. Using a thin piece of tape, stick two pieces together at a time until you have a cross shape. This is the paddle.
4. Now one person needs to hold the chopsticks in place at either side of the drink bottle, while another person sticks them on with tape. Make sure that at least 10cm of the chopsticks stick out at the back of the boat. Once you have the position correct, wrap lots of tape around the bottle to hold the chopsticks firmly in place.
5. Loop a rubber band around the ends of the chopsticks. Insert your paddle so that two parts of it are either side of the rubber band (see pic)
6. You can use a sharpie to write the children's names on the bottles. Or use glitter glue, sequins or buttons etc to decorate the boats uniquely.
7. To race your paddle boats, fill a container with water, wind up the elastic band at the back of the boat, and let go!

**NB** We found that the boats often paddled in a circle, so a round paddling pool would work better for races than a trough.

## Areas of learning and development:

EAD Expressive arts and design

UW Understanding the world

PSED Personal, social and emotional development

Math Mathematics

