

Foundation Phase Activity

Hula Hoop Challenge

How long can your pupils hula hoop? Set your pupils this challenge to find out.

What you will need:

- Hula hoop
- Stopwatch

What to do:

- Pupils take turns to hula hoop.
- Time how long each pupil can hula hoop, up to a maximum of one minute.

- Results should be compiled in a table in rank order.

Tips:

- You may wish to offer your pupils a practice session before the challenge begins. Hula hoop instructions can be found on the main mathcymru *Round and Round* page.
- You may wish to take the best time from three attempts for each pupil.

Curriculum Links for Challenge and Extension Activities

Skills

Solve mathematical problems

- Select and use appropriate mathematical ideas, equipment and materials to solve practical problems.
- Identify, collect and organise information in purposeful contexts.
- Develop a variety of mathematical approaches and strategies.

Communicate mathematically

- Develop their mathematical language across the range of mathematics, and use it in their role play and in communicating/talking to adults about their work.

Range

Number

Pupils should be given opportunities to:

- Develop an interest in numbers.
- Understand number and number notation:
 - Use number names accurately, matching the symbol to the sound.
 - Count, read, write, compare and order numbers, and appreciate the conservation of numbers.
 - Use numbers naturally in their play and daily activities.

- Calculate in a variety of ways:

- Begin to develop their mental calculation strategies during counting and grouping activities, games and through day-to-day classroom activities.
- Progress from counting on or back in steps, to mental mathematics involving all four operations, with small numbers, using their own methods to record their calculations.

- Investigate patterns and relationships:

- Begin to understand the relationships between addition and subtraction, between multiplication and division, and between halving and doubling.

Measures and money

Pupils should be given opportunities to:

- Understand and use measures:
 - Understand the passage of time in relation to daily activities and life events.

Shape, position and movement

Pupils should be given opportunities to:

- Play with shapes.
- Understand and use the properties of position and movement:
 - Develop an awareness of position and movement during their own physical activities.
 - Follow instructions and give directions for simple movements.

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Extension Activity 1: Number of Spins

Now you have timed how long your pupils can hula hoop, how many spins can they do? People have very different techniques for hula hooping, some spin the hoop slower than others. What is the highest number of spins your pupils can produce?

What you will need:

- Hula hoop
- Coloured sticky tape

What to do:

- Attach a small strip of coloured sticky tape to the hoop. This will act as a marker for counting the spins.
- Pupils take turns to hula hoop.
- Count the number of spins each pupil produces, up to a maximum of thirty spins. One spin is measured by the marker on the hoop returning to its start position. For ease of counting, it is recommended that the marker is at the front of the hoop at the start of each attempt.
- Results should be recorded in a table in rank order.



Tips:

- You may wish to take the highest score from three attempts for each pupil.
- This activity can be carried out indoors or outdoors, so long as there is enough room to spin.

Extension Activity 2: Hula Hoop Game

This energetic game demonstrates an alternative use for the hula hoops. It combines simple maths calculations with play for a fun learning experience.

What you will need:

- Three hula hoops
- Lots of coloured plastic balls

What to do:

- Generate some simple maths problems beforehand.
- Lay the hoops in a row on the ground, equally spaced apart.
- When the children are presented with a calculation (for example, 2 plus 3), they need to place two balls in the first hoop, three balls in the second hoop and the answer in the third.
- The children will need to work out the answers to each calculation between themselves. This will require team work and cooperation.
- Try adding another hoop to make it more complex (for example, 2 plus 3 plus 5) or give them a time limit.



Tips:

- It might be easier for the children if you lay a card on the floor showing the operation between the first and second hoops and a card with the equals sign between the second and third.