

# Outdoor Noughts & Crosses Under 3 years

This activity is a fun and engaging way to develop a love and appreciation for Maths and how it shapes our everyday life. It's also a great way to enhance children's natural curiosity of nature through play and to experience turn taking, strategic thinking and logical games.

## You will need:

- Sticks
- Pinecones
- Pebbles
- Chalks

## The activity:

1. Explore outdoors and collect a number of resources
2. Place the sticks in a grid to make the squared structure
3. Discuss having two groups of objects - pebbles and pinecones
4. Talk about needing a partner to play this game
5. Take it in turns to place the objects. Whoever gets their three objects in a row, wins!

## Extending the activity:

- Increase the size of the grid: what happens when the game is played with 4X4 grid? The winner has to achieve a straight line
- What happens if 3 people play?

## TOP TIP:

- Playing this game outdoors means that it can be done on a larger scale- collect large sticks and stones to make the activity energetic.





### Keeping Everyone Safe

Check for sharp ends of any sticks



Enrich vocabulary development with related words such as:

Diagonal	Next to	Row
Vertical	Predict	Column
Horizontal	Turn-taking	Intersect

### How this supports knowledge & development:

Children need time to learn the game by just enjoying the experience and having fun!

Outdoor maths helps to:

- Develop the concept of decision making, thinking logically and turn taking
- Maths positional language of the next, corner, straight and lines

### Questions to ask:

- Does it matter who goes first?
- What would happen if...?
- What did you learn from that round?

### Try even more material to play

After drawing your grid you could even use two different colours of paint/ink and use your fingerprints as 'noughts' and 'crosses'. See if you can do this below...

