

10 ways to reuse a yoghurt pot

Learning objectives:

To understand that items usually thrown away can be reused in many fun ways.



Practitioner knowledge:

Many yoghurt pots are thrown away every day, even though they can be reused in practical ways.

Here are 10 ideas to help reuse instead of throwing them away or recycling them straight away.

Preparation:

To begin, all you need are used yoghurt pots that have been cleaned and dried.

Paint / water pot (5+ yoghurt pots, paint and optional paint dispensers)

Set up a self-serve paint station in the art area using reused soap pump bottles and small yoghurt pots. Paint can often be wasted if children fill large paint pots with more than they need, yoghurt pots work better because they hold smaller amounts and are easier for children to hold while using the pump.

This simple tip reduces paint waste and provides a simple, effective way to encourage reuse. Also encourage the children to wash, dry and return the pots after use!

Stacking game

(6+ yoghurt pots)

Children can enjoy stacking, knocking down and rebuilding yoghurt pots without the cost of buying stacking cups!

Plant pots

(enough pots for each child in class, compost and seeds)

Plant pots can be expensive, especially when buying enough for a whole class.

Yoghurt pots are a good alternative because they are the right size for sowing seeds until the seedlings are ready to be replanted.

Water play container

(3-10 pots, each with a different number and position of holes)

Yoghurt pots work well for water play because they do not take up much space in the water tray and are perfect size for filling and pouring.

You can also make holes in the bottom to create different effects, giving children a chance to experiment.



Pompom catch game / target throwing game

(6+ pots and pompoms)

Yoghurt pots can be used for fun games.

Children can try catching pompoms in their pots after they are thrown into the air, or they can throw the pompoms into the pots as a target game.

You could also place the pots close together to create a funfair-style challenge.

Ice exploration

(4+ pots, water and anything you would like to add)

Yoghurt pots are an ideal size for making simple ice exploration activities.

Add plastic animals, petals, fruit or other small items.

Fill the pots with water and freeze them overnight.

Once frozen, the ice shapes should come out easily and be ready for play.

Maths pots

(10 pots, a marker pen and pictures of fruits)

Yoghurt pots can be used for many maths activities, including counting and sorting.

Just label the pots with numbers and ask children to place the matching number of seeds in each one.

Yoghurt pots can also be used to sort different seeds.



To make the activity more challenging, add pictures of fruits to the pots so children can match each seed to the correct fruit, such as an apple, orange or watermelon.

Feely pots

(5+ pots plus any tactile materials)

Feely pots are a great way for children to explore through touch and do not need to be expensive.

You can make simple versions using yoghurt pots filled with materials such as cotton wool, sponge, playdough or fabric scraps such as silk, or velvet.

Try to include a range of different textures.

Role play food packaging for the home corner

(3+ pots and any food alternative)

Children often enjoy using real-life food packaging in role play, so why not add something inside the pot, such as playdough? The children can use it in home corner when pretending to feed a baby.

Sound matching game

(6+ pots items to create sounds)

This is a simple listening game. Fill two pots with the same item, such as one conker, and another two pots with a different item, such as sunflower seeds. Choose materials that make noticeably different sounds when shaken. Mix the pots up on a table and ask children to pick up two at a time, give them a shake, and decide whether they match. Start with a small number of pots and gradually increase the challenge.

