

Power Detectors

Learning objectives:

Children will notice everyday objects that use energy, such as lights, lamps, washing machines, tumble dryers, dishwashers, microwaves and tablets.

Children will explore simple energy-saving actions, including switching things off when they are finished.

Children will take part in caring for the environment by finding Power Protector stickers and telling an adult when something should be switched off.





Practitioner knowledge:

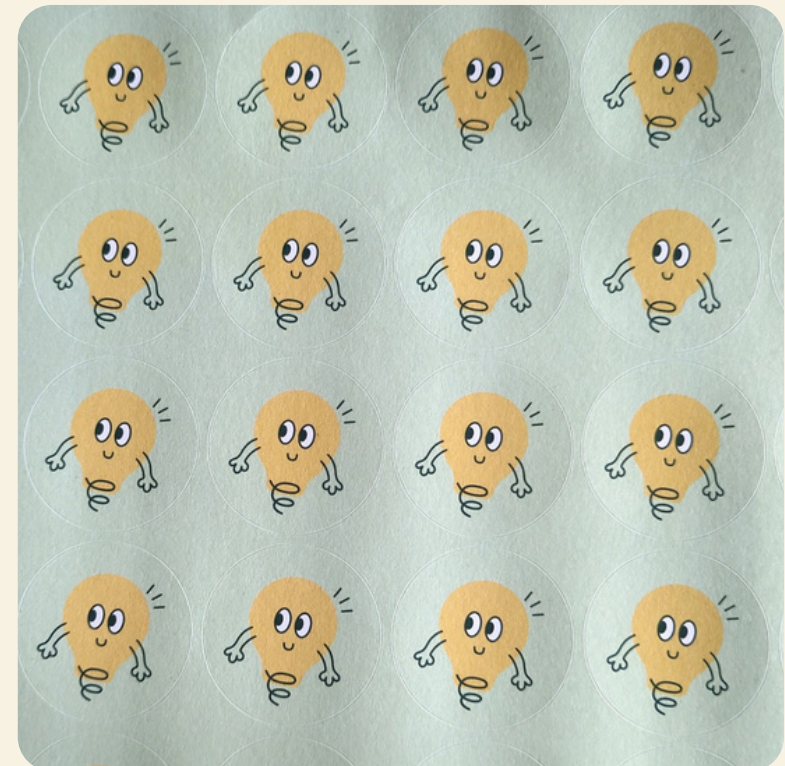
Many everyday items use electricity, and some electricity is still made by burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas.

This can release pollution and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, which contributes to climate change. Helping children notice when power is being used supports early habits around saving energy. Simple actions, such as turning off lights, lamps, tablets and appliances when they are not needed, can reduce wasted energy and help children understand that small choices can help care for the planet.



What you will need:

- Power Protector stickers or labels.
- Optional: clipboards, picture cards or a simple checklist.





Activity

Before the activity, The adult places Power Protector stickers on or near safe appliances and items that use power, such as a washing machine, tumble dryer, dishwasher, microwave, light switch, lamp or tablet.

The children become Power 'Detectors' and go on a supervised hunt to find the stickers.

When they find a sticker, they tell the adult what they have found and decide together whether the item is needed on. If it is not needed, the children ask the adult to turn it off.



Safety note

Children must be closely supervised at all times. Do not allow children to touch plug sockets, plugs, cables, hot appliances or moving parts.

Stickers should be placed at the start of the activity by an adult. The stickers must not cover switches, vents, screens, warning labels or controls.



Prompts

“What can you see?” – “Is it on or off?”

“Do we need it now?” – “What shall we do when we are finished?”



Extension ideas

Create a Power Protector role-play badge, sash or vest for children to wear during the activity.

Once children have a good understanding, invite them to place stickers on things they believe use power, with close adult support.

Place photos of the children finding energy-using objects on an Eco-Tots display.

Share with families and encourage them to look for one thing they can switch off when finished.

Repeat the hunt at different times of day, such as before lunch or before going outside, to build the habit into routines.

