

# Tippy Tap Rain

**Explore animals, colours, and actions with the parachute through playful, interactive learning.**

## Let's Play!

Sit comfortably with your baby on your lap, or lay them safely on a soft towel or mat nearby. Fill a small bowl or tray with warm (not hot) water. Dip your fingers, a sponge, or a soft cloth into the water and let it drip gently onto different parts of their body—tiny hands, feet, tummy, or forehead.

As the water drips, say or sing simple bilingual phrases to connect sound and sensation:  
“Drip drip drip – glaw bach yn dod!” / “Drip drip drip – little rain is coming!”  
“Dŵr ar dy fysedd!” / “Water on your fingers!”

Watch how your baby responds—do they kick, coo, wriggle, or smile? Copy their sounds, name their actions, and praise their responses. You're building early communication skills while helping them explore the feel of water. To finish, gently dry them off with a soft towel while continuing to talk or sing. You can say: “Wedi gorffen!”

## What you'll need:

- Bowl or tray of warm water
- Soft sponges or flannels
- Small cups or pipettes (for gentle dripping)
- Towels (for comfort, drying, and clean-up)
- Optional calming music or lullabies
- Comfortable mat or blanket
- Foil blanket or soft textured fabric (for babies who prefer dry sensory input)



## This activity provides opportunities for:

### Language Development

- Exposure to simple, repetitive bilingual language helps babies tune into speech sounds and rhythm.
- Reinforces early vocabulary through touch-based labelling.
- Supports early communication through adult-child interaction, including eye contact, turn-taking, and shared attention.
- Encourages babbling and sound imitation as babies respond to sensory play with coos, squeals, or giggles.

### Cognitive Engagement

- Introduces cause and effect as babies feel water drip and connect it to adult actions or words.
- Encourages early attention and curiosity.
- Builds understanding of routines and sequences.
- Begins sensory memory as babies start to associate words and sensations.

### Movement and Sensory Development

- Enhances tactile awareness through gentle water on the skin.
- Promotes fine motor responses, like hand or foot movement, reaching, or reflexive grasping.
- Provides calming or stimulating sensory input depending on temperature, texture, and rhythm.
- Lays the foundation for body awareness (e.g. naming and feeling body parts like toes or fingers).

## Inclusive Play for All

This activity is gentle, adaptable, and welcoming for all babies. Offer flexible positioning such as on laps, supported sitting, or lying down based on comfort and physical needs. For babies who are sensitive to water, use dry sensory options like foil blankets or soft fabrics. Incorporate bilingual phrases and gestures, and consider including songs or lullabies from families' home languages or cultures to support a strong sense of identity and belonging. Every baby can benefit from meaningful interaction, whether through eye contact, listening, movement, or touch—this is where connection, curiosity, and communication begin.

## Useful Phrases:

- **Dŵr cynnes** Warm water
- **Drip drip drip** Drip drip drip
- **Glaw** Rain
- **Glaw bach** Little rain
- **Splash** Splash
- **Gwlyb** Wet
- **Sych** Dry



# Pour and Puddle

**Explore animals, colours, and actions with the parachute through playful, interactive learning.**

## Let's Play:

Set out a shallow water tray or several small basins at floor level. Add a few small cups, jugs, ladles, and sponges. Invite toddlers to explore pouring, scooping, squeezing, and splashing. Use simple bilingual prompts to guide their play, like:

- “Can you pour the water?” / “Wyt ti’n gallu tywallt y dŵr?”
- “Splash splash!” / “Splash splash!”

Add in some toy dishes, rubber animals, or containers for them to wash and fill. Label actions and objects as they play. For example:

- “The duck is wet!” / “Mae’r hwyaden yn wlyb!”
- “Big splash!” / “Splash fawr!”

Encourage children to take turns, watch the flow of water, and make choices. The repetition of water play actions supports understanding of cause and effect, language patterns, and motor skills. Make sure the area is safe and well-supervised—and prepare for lots of joyful splashing!

## What you’ll need:

- Shallow water tray or a few bowls/basins
- Plastic cups, jugs, scoops, and ladles
- Sponges or washcloths
- Toy animals or household items
- Towels or cloths for drying and wiping spills
- Waterproof mat or covering for the floor
- Music to create a playful or calming atmosphere





## This activity provides opportunities for:



### Language Development

- Builds vocabulary through naming actions and objects.
- Encourages two-word phrases and simple instructions.
- Reinforces understanding through repeated bilingual phrases.
- Supports turn-taking and listening in social play.



### Cognitive Engagement

- Develops cause and effect thinking (e.g., “If I tip the jug, the water pours”).
- Promotes problem-solving (e.g., how to fill, scoop, or carry water).
- Encourages experimentation with volume, flow, and texture.
- Builds early concepts of full/empty, heavy/light, fast/slow.



### Movement and Sensory Development

- Strengthens fine motor skills (grasping, pouring, squeezing).
- Encourages hand-eye coordination through scooping and filling.
- Provides rich tactile experiences with wet and soft textures.
- Offers whole-body movement as children squat, reach, and balance during play.



## Inclusive Play for All

This activity can be easily adapted for all children, including those with additional learning needs or from global majority backgrounds. Use a range of container sizes and easy-grip tools so children with limited fine motor skills can still explore pouring and scooping. Position trays on low tables or lap trays to ensure children who use mobility aids or who sit can access the water comfortably.

Use bilingual language, gestures, and culturally familiar objects or animals to reflect children's backgrounds and promote belonging. Some children may prefer dry sensory alternatives, such as rice, lentils, or water beads, while still benefiting from the same vocabulary and playful routines.

## Useful Phrases:

- **Cwpan** Cup
- **Jwg** Jug
- **Sbwng** Sponge
- **Tegan** Toy
- **Eto** Again
- **Yn ofalus** Carefully
- **Bysedd** Fingers
- **Tro ti!** Your turn!
- **Da iawn!** Well done!
- **Beth wyt ti'n gweld?** What do you see?
- **Ble mae'r dŵr yn mynd?** Where is the water going?



# Water Explorers

**Explore animals, colours, and actions with the parachute through playful, interactive learning.**

## Let's Play:

Create “explorer zones” with different challenges: a stream made from a hose or water tunnel, a puddle path (shallow trays or mats), floating objects to collect, or hidden toy sea creatures. Encourage the children to become Water Explorers—give them simple missions like:

- “Can you rescue the red fish?”
- “Let’s jump over the puddle river!”
- “Find something that floats!”
- “Pour water into the big bucket – let’s see what happens!”

Use playful bilingual language to guide the action, e.g. “Ble mae’r pysgodyn glas?” / “Where’s the blue fish?” Add props like explorer hats, plastic binoculars, or buckets to inspire role play. Let the children lead the play—follow their curiosity, add vocabulary to what they’re doing, and celebrate every discovery.

## What you’ll need:

- Buckets, containers, sieves, and jugs
- Toy sea creatures or floating objects
- Shallow trays, puddle mats, or splash-safe surfaces
- Hose or small stream for flowing water (supervised)
- Waterproof clothing or aprons
- Explorer props (hats, magnifiers, nets)



**Confident movers**





## This activity provides opportunities for:



### Language Development

- Expands vocabulary through action words (pour, jump, find), descriptive language (wet, cold, floating), and themed words (fish, river, explorer).
- Supports understanding and following instructions, using bilingual prompts and questions.
- Encourages expressive language as children narrate their play and describe discoveries.
- Reinforces repetitive phrases and sentence structures, helping children grow in confidence and fluency.



### Cognitive Engagement

- Promotes problem-solving ("What will float?").
- Develops concepts of same/different, sorting, matching, and basic science.
- Encourages sequencing and memory, especially when children repeat tasks or recreate steps.
- Stimulates imaginative thinking and storytelling through pretend play as "explorers."



### Movement and Sensory Development

- Strengthens gross motor skills: walking, balancing, stretching and jumping
- Develops fine motor skills: pouring, scooping, grasping, and manipulating tools.
- Provides tactile stimulation through the feel of water, different textures.
- Supports coordination and body awareness.

## Inclusive Play for All

Water Explorers is a flexible, open-ended activity that can be adapted for all children, regardless of ability or background. Ensure all play zones are physically accessible by offering water trays at different heights, using adapted tools (like chunky cups, sponges, or squeeze bottles), and supporting children with limited mobility through seated or one-to-one engagement. Offer dry sensory options for those who are sensory-sensitive. Use bilingual or multilingual prompts and include water play items that reflect cultural diversity. Introduce familiar animals, objects, or songs that connect with their home experiences to build a sense of belonging.

## Useful Phrases:

- **Ble mae'r pysgodyn?** Where is the fish?
- **Beth wyt ti'n gweld?** What do you see?
- **Wyt ti'n gallu ei ddal e?** Can you catch it?
- **Tywallta'r dŵr yma** Pour the water here.
- **Splash mawr!** Big splash!
- **Edrycha! Mae'n arnofio!** Look! It's floating!
- **Pa liw yw e?** What colour is it?

