

Adapted from Kindergarten & Preschool for Parents & Teachers

<http://kindergartenbasics.blogspot.com/2012/02/whats-that-shadow-game-activities.html>

What's that Shadow? Look at my shadow!



Is your child fascinated by shadows? Are they in the dark about what causes shadows? Many children are curious with the events such as Groundhog Day and by watching Peter Pan movies. Shadows are mysterious to young children. Yet all it takes to learn about shadows is to play outside on a sunny day or inside using a flashlight.

Indoor Activity: Ask your child(ren) what they predict will happen if you project the flashlight against an object? What will happen if you turn out the lights in the room? See if they mention shadows and what the shadow will look like. There is no right or wrong answer. Let them come up with ideas then suggest trying it out to see what happens.

The Sun and Moon, as they work in unison, also create shadows.

You can replicate this inside. Have someone to hold a globe (or ball) which represents our earth. Have another child hold a flashlight which represents the sun. Hold a ball in between the two children which represents the moon. Tell the children to watch the

shadow as you move the ball around the earth. What happens to the moon's shadow? Why?

Outside Activity: On a sunny day, go outside and observe shadows. Choose a safe spot to stand on a hard surface, parking lot or tarmacked area. Encourage children to have a buddy draw around their shadow with chalk on the ground. Return an hour later and stand in the same spot. Redraw the shadow. Has it moved? This can also be done with one child by placing an object down and tracing the shape onto the hard surface with chalk. Return an hour, 2 hours, etc later and see if the shadow has moved. Retrace the shape.