



Engaging Places

A resource to support teaching and learning through buildings and places



Leisure centre, by David Walmsley, education consultant

Curriculum subject/s	Maths, Science and Design & Technology.
Key stage/s	2 & 3 - designed for use with SEN pupils.
Curriculum outcomes	Understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Research the opportunities offered locally which children and their families could participate in. Awareness of why materials were chosen to construct a leisure centre.
Lesson objectives	To visit a leisure centre to determine what facilities it offers the community. To look at how a leisure centre is designed and how a wide variety of physical activities can be accommodated within one unified space. To design a simple plan of a leisure centre.

Starter

- Explain to children that they are going to visit a local leisure centre and look at what is inside and how it is planned.
- Ask children if they have used the leisure centre and for what purpose. (Encourage them to talk about physical achievement and give constructive support).
- Compile their responses and set out the information so that children can present it as a simple bar chart, showing the popularity of different sports or activities. (ICT opportunity)
- Use promotional material to show what the leisure centre offers. Or, demonstrate how to use the Internet to obtain the information.
- Print out the details to use for later activities.
- For what reasons do other people use the leisure centre? (Keep fit, participate in team games or competitions, relax and meet people, improve health, physiotherapy and recovery, have fun, etc.).
- What opportunities are there for people with various disabilities to participate in sport or recreation?
- What is offered for different groups of people? (Elderly, mothers and toddlers).
- What forms of instruction are available?
- Talk about the necessity of keeping fit and the importance of physical activity in our lives. (60)

Just around the corner

- Visit a leisure centre, perhaps combining your visit with a sporting activity or a new healthy lifestyle challenge. (Explain to the centre's staff the purpose of your visit).
- From the outside, describe the building. What materials were used to build it? What features on and around the building tell children that this is a leisure centre?
- What outdoor facilities and opportunities are offered?
- Is there a stadium or track? If so, look for information about the events held there.
- Look at the different materials used on the inside of the building. Why were they chosen? Easy to clean, strong, non-slip, to reduce sound, etc.
- In which areas are glass, timber or metal rarely used, and why?
- Visit as many spaces as possible in the leisure centre. Which can be used for many sports, and which can only be used for specific sports?
- What are other spaces and rooms used for?
- How do people get around the centre? Look at routes and signage. Have symbols been used to assist navigation?

Main

- Refresh children's experiences of the visit, recalling all the different facilities and spaces within the centre.
- Show children a plan of a building and demonstrate how to draw a plan using squared paper.
- Talk about what they would want to include in a new leisure centre.
- Children use squared paper to design the ground plan.
- Display images of sporting activities to help them decide what to include and what they would need to provide.
- Draw or use cut-out or pre-prepared symbols to show the activities that can take place in each area. (60)

Plenary

- Children present their ideas to a partner or to the rest of the group.

Additional activity

- Compare the prices and timings with other leisure centres.

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Assessment for learning

Formative:

Explain purpose of the visit and ask children how they might approach the task. Work with them to plan the investigation and let children take the lead (with guidance) during the visit.

Summative:

From observation, teachers give feedback about the way that children approached the task.

Resources

- Photographs of leisure centre(s). Permission is usually needed to take photographs inside these centres, but the centres may be able to supply interior images themselves
- Leisure centre promotional material
- Squared paper
- Images of sporting activities

Cross-curricular links

ICT: Children learn to use digital and online sources to find and select information.

Literacy: Children learn to ask and answer questions, taking turns and contributing to class discussion.

Personal, learning and thinking skills: Children learn how to reflect on past achievements and set goals for future personal development.

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