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## Organise a Treasure Hunt

Organising a treasure hunt requires a little bit of forethought and preplanning but is easier with these step by step instructions and clue templates. You can set this up at home or out and about. You can design it yourself but the chances are that the children will want to have a turn too, when they do, the process will teach them how to work backwards from an end point.

- **Step 1** Decide what style of clue you will use vary this according to the age and ability of the children. Some ideas...
- Draw a picture of the location in which the next clue can be found (Great for non-readers)
- A straight instruction such as 'Look behind the sofa'. Tailor the language to the children's reading ability or tell them to bring the clue back to you so you can read it.
- Create a riddle for the location of the next clue i.e 'I have arms and legs but I cannot move. I sit in front of the TV all day. Your next clue is behind me.'
- Make your clues rhyme 'Your next clue can be found, if you look all around. Take lots of care and search under a chair.'
- Use a number of paces in the pirate map style i.e. 'Face the house, walk 13 paces forward and 6 paces left. Dig.' You could bury the clues in the ground for this style of hunt and also use compass directions to add an extra level of challenge.
- Give the clue in code use the grid at the bottom of the page to assign a number or a different letter to each letter in the alphabet. You can do this by shifting the alphabet a given number of places to the right. Then you can decide to give the children the decoding key or not!
- **Step 2** Decide on or buy some 'treasure' and hide it in a suitable location you could use chocolate coins, real money or even healthy snacks.
- Step 3 Using the templates, work backwards from the treasure and complete the clues as you go.

  e.g. The first clue you write will be the clue for the treasure when it is written out, hide it somewhere else. The next clue will relate to that location. Avoid any confusion by getting in the rhythm of write the clue and hide it, write the clue and hide it. You could have mini rewards along the way.
- Step 4 Decide on the number of clues you want to have so that the treasure hunt remains manageable and don't hide the last one. This can be handed to the children or put somewhere so they will find it spontaneously e.g. by the sink for them to see while brushing their teeth or in the cereal box so it tumbles out when they get their breakfast.
- **Step 5** Watch them tear around absorbed in their task!
- **Step 6** Print out another set of clues so the children can make a treasure hunt for each other or for you.

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