

Cereal Box Eclipse Viewer

Create a simple eclipse projector using an empty cereal box, foil and a pinhole. The sunlight shines through the tiny hole and projects an image onto the inside of the box, making it easier for young children to view.

Look Under Trees

The small gaps between leaves act like hundreds of natural pinhole cameras. During the eclipse, look at the ground beneath trees and you may spot lots of tiny crescent-shaped patches of light instead of the usual round ones.

Things to Talk About

Try asking your child:

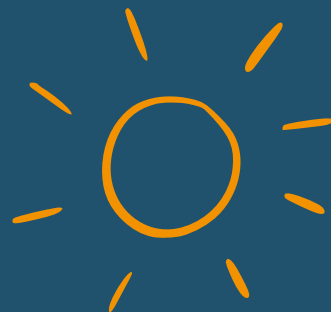
- What shape can you see?
- Does the light look different?
- Can you find crescent shadows?
- Does it feel cooler outside?

These simple observations help children become young scientists and explore the natural world around them.

Remember

- Use projection methods or certified eclipse glasses.
- Supervise children at all times.
- Never look directly at the Sun.
- Enjoy this rare opportunity to experience one of the most exciting astronomical events visible from Wales in a generation.

Happy eclipse watching!



About Us

Early Years Wales enhances the development and education of pre-school children in Wales by encouraging parents to understand and provide for their needs through high quality pre-school provision and childcare.

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A MINI GUIDE TO Safe Eclipse Fun for Families



Wednesday 12 August 2026

On Wednesday 12 August 2026, families across Wales will be able to see a spectacular partial solar eclipse, with around 90-95% of the Sun covered by the Moon, depending on location. It is one of the most significant eclipses visible from the UK for many years.

What is a Solar Eclipse?

A solar eclipse happens when the Moon moves between the Earth and the Sun, blocking some of the Sun's light and casting a shadow on Earth. During this event, daylight may appear dimmer, temperatures can drop slightly and the world can feel strangely different for a short time.

Children may notice:

- The sky becoming darker.
- The air feeling cooler.
- Birds becoming quieter.
- Unusual shadows on the ground.

For young children, you might explain it like this:

“The Moon is moving in front of the Sun and making a giant shadow.”



When to Look

Across Wales, the eclipse is expected to:

- Begin around 6:15pm
- Reach its maximum around 7:00pm
- Take place as the Sun is setting in the west.

Choose a location with a clear view towards the western horizon if possible.

Safety First

Never look directly at the Sun.

This applies:

- With your eyes
- Through sunglasses
- Through binoculars
- Through a telescope
- Through a camera or phone camera

Even a few seconds of looking directly at the Sun can cause permanent eye damage. Ordinary sunglasses do not protect your eyes from harmful solar radiation.

If using eclipse glasses, make sure they are certified, undamaged and bought from a reputable supplier.

Safe Ways to View the Eclipse



Colander Eclipse Viewer

A kitchen colander makes an excellent eclipse viewer.

1. Stand with your back to the Sun.
2. Hold the colander above the ground or a sheet of white paper.
3. Watch the sunlight shining through the holes.

You'll see lots of tiny images of the Sun. During the eclipse, these round spots become little crescent shapes, creating an amazing "eclipse disco" effect.

Simple Pinhole Projector

You will need:

- Two pieces of white card
- A pin

Make a tiny hole in one piece of card. Stand with your back to the Sun and allow sunlight to pass through the hole onto the second piece of card. The projected image will show the changing shape of the eclipsed Sun safely.

Important: Never look through the pinhole at the Sun.

