



HOW TO SET UP A CRIME SCENE

Spark your children's imagination with this real-world, problem-solving activity. Here are some ideas about how to create your own crime scene.

- **ESTABLISH THE CRIME:** For example a stolen school trophy or a masking tape outline of a body on the floor (steer clear of gory crimes with younger children!)
- **CHOOSE YOUR SUSPECTS:** We suggest you pick 5 members of staff and give each of them a motive. Leave a piece of evidence relating to each suspect at the crime scene (see below for evidence ideas).
- **MAKE IT REALISTIC:** Rope off the area with crime scene tape and invest in forensic suits and gloves for the children to wear when examining the evidence. Think about the criminal's route of entrance/exit, leaving further evidence of damage in the classroom such as overturned tables and chairs or graffiti on display boards. When dealing with evidence, children should wear gloves and put small pieces (e.g. hairs, clothing fibres) in Ziploc bags.
- **DECIDE ON A STORYLINE:** Although each suspect has a motive, it's important that the children are able to establish who the criminal is. Ensure each suspect is represented in the crime scene evidence but remind the children that some of it may have been 'planted' there to confuse them by the culprit.



- **VISITING EXPERTS:** If possible, arrange a visit from a local police officer or forensic scientist. They could either launch the discovery of the crime scene or tell the children more about their job and aid them with their investigations.
- **FOOTPRINT EVIDENCE:** Leave footprints from one (or more) of the suspects at the crime scene. Link to our '*footprint measuring*' STEM activity.
- **FINGERPRINT EVIDENCE:** Again, leave fingerprint evidence from one (or more) of the suspects. E.g. a drink can or bottle with fingerprints on. Link to our '*fingerprint dusting*' STEM activity.
- **HANDWRITING EVIDENCE:** Hide some handwritten evidence within the crime scene. This may be a ransom note, a shopping list etc. Link to our '*handwriting chromatography*' STEM activity.
- **EVIDENCE BOARD:** The police often use evidence boards when solving tricky cases. Create your own and use it as a 'working wall', annotating it with post-it notes of written observations and discoveries, pictures of the suspects and crime scene etc.
- **SUSPECT INTERVIEWS:** Make sure you've briefed each suspect in advance to ensure they stick to the storyline! These interviews are a great way of leading the children to discovering who the criminal is.

See here for our **STEM crime activities**:

<http://howtostem.co.uk/crime/>

