

# Lesson Ideas

## Curriculum Aim: Recognise that light appears to travel in straight lines

### Success Criteria:

- I can explain how shadows are formed.
- I can reflect a beam of light to where I want it.

### Resources:

- A lowlight room
- Torches
- Mirrors
- Protractors
- Pencils and coloured pencils
- A collection of old CDs
- Squares of card with a slit cut in each so that it provides a clear beam of light when a torch is shone through. This can also be achieved by putting insulating tape onto a torch to leave a thin beam of light.

### Whole Class Demonstration Activity:

Choose some children to demonstrate that light travels in a straight line. Give each child a CD and ask them to stand in a line. You (or another child) stand at one end with a torch and at the other end, have a wall or sheet of paper where a beam of light could be seen.

Turn on the torch and ask the children to hold their CDs at arm's length in front of the torch beam. You should not be able to see light shining on the surface at the end until you ascertain that the holes in the CDs need to be lined up in order for the light to pass through.

Ask why light seems like it is everywhere but need the CDs to be in a straight line.

The answer is because light appears to travel in straight lines.

(We use the word 'appears' because technically in certain situations it is possible to bend light).