

**Activity Title:**

**Potato Safety Helmets**

**Learning Objective / Activity Outcome:**

Children can use tools and materials to make a product

**Link to Early Years Framework:**

- ELG: Creating with Materials – Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools, and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form, and function, share their creations, explaining the process they have used.
- Understanding the World, ELG Past and present - Talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society
- ELG Fine Motor Skills – Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paint brushes and cutlery.

**Resources:**

- Potatoes – or suitable alternative, other vegetables, eggs, small teddies, etc.
- Range of craft materials – egg boxes, card, cotton wool, glue, sticky tape,
- Ball – something to drop on the ‘heads’ of the potato.

**Starter:**

If available, read the children the story of Supertato. Talk about how Supertato helps keep the veggies safe.

How could we help him stay safe?

What might Supertato, or anyone else, wear to keep them safe when they are working?

If Supertato is not available, any story where a character wears a safety helmet, or would benefit from staying safe will also work.

Show the children a real or dress up safety helmet, if available. Talk about how it keeps people safe, the materials it is made of, how their qualities keep them safe. Explain that even if it is a real helmet, we don’t use it unsafely, and can only test out safety on our toys/potatoes.

Build a safety helmet with the children, using the available craft resources. Use a wide range of vocabulary to describe materials – hard, strong, flexible, plastic, metal, etc. Tests the helmet using a soft ball and dropping it onto the helmet from a low height.

**Independent Learning:**

Children to use craft materials to create a safety helmet for a potato.  
They can decorate the potato to create a ‘Supertato’ character.

**Differentiation:**

**Support:**

Adult help with sticking.  
Supervision when dropping the soft ball.

**Extension:**

Evaluate design with children – what would they change / do differently?

### Plenary:

Test out the helmets together using a soft ball and dropping it onto the helmet from a low height. Which helmet works well?

### Careers in the Curriculum

#### Partner Profile:

The logo for Huxley Bertram, featuring the company name in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

#### Name:

Huxley Bertram

[huxleybertram.com](http://huxleybertram.com)

#### Partner Summary:

(What are the primary activities of the partner? What industry sector are they? Where do they operate? What are key products / outcomes?)

Huxley Bertram was founded in 1979 by William Bertram and Stewart Huxley. They wanted to provide mechanical engineering solutions to varied problems for any industry or relevant application. The company's first location was in a large garden shed. In 1983, it then moved to Cottenham, Cambridge, where it was based for 31 years. In August 2014, Huxley Bertram moved into its new facilities in Waterbeach, Cambridge. In total Huxley Bertram has over 25,000 square feet of facilities, including manufacturing area, workshop, and offices.

Huxley Bertram provides mechanical solutions to client's needs. This is from concept design to system build, test and commission, and ongoing service and support. Turnkey projects often culminate in fully, automated industrial machines. Projects are also conducted in work packages like concept design, feasibility studies, detailed design, build and service contracts. Physical solutions vary from full industrial automation to mechanical aids and simple fixtures.

(What are the main types of jobs available within the partner organisation?)

Engineer, manager, business director, finance, quality control, salesperson.

(What subjects best reflect Partner activities? Which activities in schools)

Communication and language – Listening to each other's ideas on what they are creating.

Speaking – explaining their idea, trying to 'sell' their idea.

Understanding the World – People, communicating and culture – knowing the communities in which they are operating.

Creating with Materials – Creating mechanical solutions that are safe to use, robust, use a range of materials, sharing their creations with clients and customers.