Light and Shadows Lesson 3

L.O. To notice that light is reflected from surfaces.

Activity

Find a collection of shiny and dull surfaces, e.g. mirrors, polished metals, Perspex, paper, painted surfaces and polished wood.

Ask them to find out which ones they can see themselves in and which ones reflect a torch light.

Write the information you have found into a results table. An example table is below, but please adapt to your surfaces.

SWITCHEDON

Science

Dull or shiny?

Test some materials to find out if they are shiny or dull.

Put your results in a table like this one.

Surface	Dull or Shiny	Is light from a torch reflected?	Can I see my face in it?
Mirror			
Polished metal sheet			
Sheet of Perspex			
Sheet of paper			
Piece of polished wood			
Shiny painted surface			
Dull painted surface			

Write a conclusion about what you have found.

I have found out that shiny surfaces

I have found out that dull surfaces...

Try to include data to back up your points.

Adults

The aim is for children to recognise that dull surfaces do not reflect the torchlight and they cannot see their reflection in them. They should know that surfaces that are smooth and shiny reflect light (light bounces off it) and they can see their reflection. Try to get your children to use words such as dull, shiny, reflect and reflection.