



**March 2020**

## **Reception - learning at home**

The most important thing is to allow your child plenty of time to play. Please continue to read lots of stories together. It's also important to allow your child to be as independent as possible during this time; encourage them to dress themselves, cut up their own food etc.

Here are some ideas of activities for your children to do at home.

### **Junk Modelling**

Save your old boxes, toilet roll tubes, bottle tops to let your children create and build fantastic structures. Let your child have as much creative freedom as possible. You could make suggestions such as adding bottle tops for wheels, toilet tubes for arms of a robot, but your child will have lots of their own ideas on what they would like to make and how they would like to make it. It is important to model how to use scissors safely, how to fix things together. Take a photo of your creations or save them to show to everyone. They could have a go at labelling their models. Another idea is to ask children to plan/draw their ideas out first and make a list of the resources they will need to make it.

### **Playdough**

If you would like to make a simple playdough recipe, you could get your child to help you. Playdough can be used in so many ways, and is beneficial for imaginary, sensory, mathematical play. With the playdough you could provide candles, sticks, buttons or anything that could be used as candles on a cake, decorations etc. You can also provide plates, muffin trays where opportunities for counting are present. If you have paper nearby ask your child to write menus, take orders, make birthday invites, cards.

Playdough Recipe:

2 cups of flour, half a cup of salt (optional), 1tbs oil, 1 cup of water and a squirt of your child's paint or food colouring (optional).

Mix the flour and salt together and add the oil. Mix the paint/colour with the water and add slowly. Mix together and knead until you have a dough-like consistency.

### **Water play**

Children love playing with water in their imaginary play. You don't need a water tray, waterplay can take place in the bath, in a bowl on the table/floor, the sink. You can provide shampoo, soap bottles, funnels, measuring jugs, or other containers you may have in your kitchen. Children also like to use toys in the water too. You could suggest making potions with your child and again have a notepad nearby to encourage children to make labels and recipes for their potions.

### **Drawing/Writing**

Whatever activity your child is doing it's always useful to have paper and pens/crayons nearby. For example, a child playing with their cars and trains may be encouraged to make stop signs, traffic light etc. A child playing with dolls might be encouraged to write invitations to the baby's birthday party or

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a shopping list. When writing, remember encourage your child to have a go independently, using their knowledge of letter sounds – don't worry if their spelling is not 'right'.

### **Cooking**

Most children really enjoy helping to bake or cook and these activities provide so many learning opportunities: reading recipes together; making a list of ingredients and equipment; understanding and following instructions; weighing and measuring ingredients; chopping, mixing, pouring etc. Simple recipes are best so that your child can take the lead (with supervision).

### **Puzzles and games**

It's great for you and your child to play a game or build a puzzle together to understand the rules, and the concept of turn taking.

### **Fine Motor skills**

Here are some ideas for some simple activities using common household items which will help to develop your child's finger strength and fine motor skills:

- Playdough activities (see above for recipe)
- Pick up a row of coins using thumb, index and middle finger and hold them in remaining two fingers (in-hand manipulation)
- Gathering up an unravelled bandage (in -hand manipulation)
- Finding buttons or beads buried in balls of playdough
- Playing with pretend knives and forks
- Threading beads, pasta of different sizes onto string
- Cutting activities – just cutting out a shape drawn on a piece of paper is great
- Pick up and sort small items using tweezers – raisins, beads, marbles etc
- Copying shapes
- Screwing lids on and off jars
- Hanging out clothes on a washing line using clothes pegs
- Making things out of paper – aeroplanes/origami
- Scrunching up tissue paper
- Bubble wrap to pop
- Jenga or Connect 4
- One person screws lid on a jar as hard as they can, other tries to get it off again
- Dot-to-dot pictures and maze puzzles

### **Topics**

In Reception we have covered a lot of topics so far. You may want to look in more depth of some of the things we have been learning about. Here are some of the topics so far.

Different countries/looking at world maps.

Weather

Winter/Antarctica

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## Websites

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?AgeGroup=1>

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/> (We have covered all of phase 2 sounds and begun phase 3)

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents> Twinkl are offering free subscriptions for parents, to support learning at home.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library->

[page/?view=image&query=&type=book&age\\_group=&level=&level\\_select=&book\\_type=&series=#](https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/?view=image&query=&type=book&age_group=&level=&level_select=&book_type=&series=#)

(just click on 'level' and under Oxford level or Book band choose the level of book your child is currently reading. There are a selection of ebooks that children can read to parents.)

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