



Nursery - learning at home

I have put together a bank of activities for you and your child to do at home, if they are absent from Nursery. At this age, it's important that activities aren't too structured, and the children have the freedom to use and explore their own ideas.

The most important thing is to allow your child plenty of time to play, as this is where most of their learning will take place. 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 etc., which your child can use to create and build fantastic structures. Let your child have as much creative freedom as possible. You could make suggestions to them, such as adding bottle tops for wheels and toilet tubes for the 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 and how to fix things together. Take a photo of your creations, or save them to show to everyone. Your child could have a go at labelling their models. Another idea is to ask your child 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 and 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 and 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), 1tbsp 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; water play can take place in the bath, in a bowl on the table/floor or 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.

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Drawing/Mark Making

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 or traffic lights. A child playing with dolls might be encouraged to write invitations to the baby's birthday party. Children need to feel confident to make marks and ascribe meaning to their marks, so ask them to tell you what their marks say and pretend to read them. Once they are confident to make marks, then they may begin to write using letters they are familiar with, like letters from their name.

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.

Topics

Keep checking the Weekly Overview for any topics that we may have covered or be covering.

Useful Websites

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

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents>

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

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/10-things-every-parent-play>

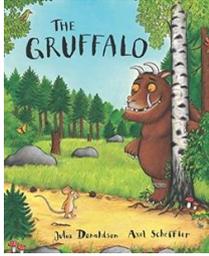
Best Wishes
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Extra Activities

Story time



Have you read the story, 'The Gruffalo'? If you don't have the book, have a listen to the story on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8sUPpPc8Ws>

Can you fill in the gaps in my sentences with your family members?

He has ___ knees and turned out ___ and a poisonous ___ at the end of his _____. His eyes are _____, his tongue is _____. He has _____ all over his back.

What else does he have? Can you draw/paint a Gruffalo? Don't forget to use the correct colours for his body parts.

Rhyme

One of the songs we enjoy singing at Nursery is 'The Cat Sat on the Mat'. We have talked a lot about words that rhyme. Cat and mat, bee and tree. Listen to the song below and spot any other words that rhyme:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7CSyXqTesY>

In the video there are lots of actions you can do to go with the song. Can you follow the actions and sing the song? Can you think of any other animals and rhyming words you could add to the song? For example, A dog sat on a _____. What sound would the dog make? Maybe you could write down (make marks) your song ideas and make up some actions to go with them.



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Counting and Number

Can you, or your family member, write the numbers 1 – 5. Now get somebody to hide the numbers around your house, or in the garden. See if you can find the numbers and put them back in order. Now you hide the numbers for your family member to find.

Once you have played the game, can you find some objects to show what the different numbers are? Look at my numbers, how many strawberries did I find? How many raisins? You could take photos of your objects, or make a number picture. Maybe you could collect leaves or petals, use your toys, pieces of Lego, or you could draw objects or shapes to show your numbers. You could stick your photos, or number pictures, on your wall for everyone to look at.



Shapes

Have a listen to the CBeebies shape song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRiWpCfp75g> What shapes did you see? If you look around your house, you can see lots of different shapes. Have a look at some of your toys, what shapes can you see? Can you go on a shape hunt around your house, in your garden, or outside in the park or street? Using a camera or, with permission, your parent's phone, can you take photos of the different shapes you see? How many circles, rectangles, triangles and squares did you spot? Have a look through the photos and tell a member of your family what shapes you saw. You might even want to draw a picture using the different shapes. Look what shapes I found around my house!



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Feelings

The Colour Monster!

Can you remember our feelings board that we have in the Nursery? What colour do we use to show that we are happy? Listen to the story the colour monster to find out what colours and feelings he has.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih0iu80u04Y>

What colour did the monster use to show that he was calm? What colour are you feeling today? Have a go at making your own colour monsters. You could draw your own monsters and colour them in, paint them, or make them using junk modelling materials, such as toilet rolls. You could also use paper plates or circles, like we did in the Nursery and find objects and materials for the different colours to stick on your monster. Once you have made them, can you write or make marks to say what feeling they are? You could use your colour monsters to show how you are feeling.



Messy and Water play

Rainbow Foam

Check out this great recipe for Rainbow foam. See if you can make some rainbow foam with your family. All you need is:

- 2tbsp of washing up liquid or similar soap.
- Half a mug of water
- A squirt of paint or colouring (if you don't have this, then you can just make foam.)

Put the soap, water and paint in a mixing bowl, and either with an electric hand mixer or cake mixer, mix the ingredients together on a high speed. Now, watch what happens. What does it feel like? If you have different coloured paints, try making lots of different colours. We decided to make foam cakes and ice-creams, using different sized bowls and spoons. What will you do with the foam? Maybe your dinosaurs, animals or play people could stomp around in it? Here's the foam that I made!



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Toy Wash!

We all love playing with the water tray when we are at Nursery. There are lots of fun things we can do with water. Here is a water activity for you to have a go at; you don't need a water tray, you could use a bucket or a bowl instead, you could even do it in your sink, or your bath! Can you set up a cleaning station for your cars, dinosaurs, play people, or whatever other toys you choose. Fill a bowl, or bucket, up with washing up liquid and water. Now get a scrubbing brush, or a sponge, to wash them. Can you dry them too? How many did you manage to wash? You might want to make a sign saying 'Car Wash' or 'Dinosaur Wash'.



Cooking

Banana Yogurt Pops!

Have a go at making your very own frozen banana yogurt pops. If you haven't got a lollipop stick, you could wrap them in foil at the bottom when you're eating them, or chop them up and eat them from a bowl.

- INSTRUCTIONS
- Halve and peel each banana. Insert a popsicle stick into each banana half.
- Dip bananas into yogurt, using a spoon to coat each banana evenly. Let excess yogurt drip off.
- Add sprinkles or topping of your choice.
- Place bananas on a tray or plate covered with baking paper. Freeze until the yogurt has hardened, about 2 hours. (Allow for more time if you would like the banana to be frozen through).



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Websites and activity links

Here you will find some great letter and counting themed Nursery Rhymes with videos.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwdgwx>

A selection of story themed yoga workouts for your child to do.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>

Below is a useful website, which provides lots of ideas for water play activities.

<https://www.firstdiscoverers.co.uk/eyfs-water-play-ideas-activities/>

Phonics Play Phase 1 activities

<https://new.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/1/welcome-to-the-zoo>

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