

Dear parents/carers,

While the school is closed, there are a lot of activities you can do with your child to help support their learning. Below are some activity ideas that you can do at home.

Reading

* Read stories. Children can never have too many stories! Talk about the pictures. Ask your child to predict what might happen next. Ask your child who is their favourite character and why. Get children to draw pictures of their favourite stories and write their re-telling of the story. Children could create their own books.
* Look at a variety of reading material with your child. Read magazines, non-fiction books, menus, recipes etc… Use the internet to research things that interest your child. The children recently asked about the food that different animals eat and they loved the teachers using google to find out the answer. There are lots of lovely YouTube videos too.
* Play games like ‘I spy’ where children have to find an object that begins with a particular sound e.g. I spy something beginning with ppppppp (say the sound, not the letter name).
* Blending. Segment words when you say them e.g. can you sit on the ch-air, can you pass me the c-u-p, time to go to b-e-d. This will help with their reading later on.
* Feely sound socks – put objects into socks (pasta in one sock, rice in another, coins in another). Shake the sock and get your child to describe the sound and guess what they think is inside the sock. Then get your child to feel the sock and describe what they feel like. Once they have given a final guess, open the sock and show them what was inside
* Sing songs. Encourage them to join in action songs. Again YouTube has a variety of songs children to copy the dances to.

There are many more activities in the Phase 1 section of the **Letters and Sounds** website.

Writing

* Simply giving your child different types of pens, pencils and crayons with paper and letting them make a variety of marks is enough. Encourage your child to talk about the marks they have made.
* If you have an outdoor area you could get your child to paint on the floor with water colours or just water using paint brushes. They could also draw on the floor with chalk.
* Children should now be drawing simple pictures that look like object they are drawing e.g. a house should be an enclosed shape with clear windows and doors. Ask your child what they are drawing and talk about the shapes they may need to use.
* Some children are beginning to write the letters in their name. Make a name card that they can use to write their name on all of their pictures.

Maths

* Point out numbers and shapes all around you and name them.
* Ask your child to give you a particular number of objects e.g. can you give me 3 cups, 5 marshmallows, 6 cars etc…
* Go on a number or a shape hunt around the house. Can they find any circles? Can they find a number 2 anywhere?

Health and self-care

Please encourage your child to be independent by allowing them to dress themselves, feed themselves and go to the toilet themselves.

Other activities you can do at home include:

* Cooking/baking – there are lots of simple recipes online
* Make play dough with your child

*2 cups flour*

*2 cups water*

*1 cup salt*

*3 teaspoons of Cream of tartar*

*5 tablespoons of oil*

*Food colouring*

*Mix in a saucepan on the hob until it is not sticky*

* Puzzles
* Turn taking games – Orchard games are great
* Painting – encourage your child to mix colours and talk about what they can see
* Arts and crafts – encourage your child to use scissors, sellotape and glue to create models
* Construction – building models. Ask your child to talk about the models they create

The busythings website has a lot of lovely games and activities for nursery children that cover the early years curriculum.

<https://www.busythings.co.uk/play/>

Pinterest have many activity ideas that you can do at home. They particularly have good early year’s science experiments that are simple and do not need too much resourcing.

The Richland Library website has a variety of authors who read stories online.

<http://www.richlandlibrary.com/blog/2020-03-16/your-daily-dose-childrens-authors-illustrators>

Mrs Thrasyvoulou, a Holly Park teacher will also put story telling videos up on the school website so please look out for these.

Below is a website that explains in simple terms what we would expect the children to be doing at this point in nursery (page 20 onwards). There are also some activity ideas.

<https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/04/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015_FINAL_WEBv2.pdf>

I hope these ideas are useful. Most of them require very little planning or setting up.

We hope that the children will be back with us again soon!

Louise Wood

Nursery Teacher