

Scotland Learns

Parents and Carers Newsletter

28 May 2020

Issue 4

Learning activities for parents and carers to support children with learning at home

Hints and tips for helping children who need additional support

Advice for parents and carers on social media

Information and advice to support children making transitions

Creativity challenge

WHAT IF...



In this edition you can find new ideas for activities to support your child's learning at home. There are hints, tips, information and advice for parents and carers, including on how to support transitions.

Don't forget to sign up to our weekly newsletter for parents and carers.

Sign up



Learning activities

Literacy and English



This week we have a few suggestions for helping children and young people to use everyday items in and about their home to learn new things.

- Younger children of nursery or early primary school age can think about their dream bedroom. They can also make a den for reading.
- Older children can plan what their dream bedroom could look like. They can think about what books to read and where in the world they would choose to read a book.
- Using jokes and rhymes is a fun and creative way for younger children to create their own ideas.
- A treasure hunt can be a good way of getting younger children to explore around their home or outside with their family.
- Those at secondary school are asked to think about plastic pollution and how it affects our lives. They are asked to think about their role in the climate change discussion.

[Literacy and English activities](#)



Numeracy and mathematics



This week's numeracy and mathematics activities look at numbers in order. We can use cartons, bottles and boxes to find out more about volume. Young people learn about angles associated with parallel lines.

- Help younger children (nursery age to P1) to practise the order of numbers from 0 to 10 and from 11 to 20. Children can fill and empty different sized containers with water. This can help them find out more about volume
- Activities for children in P2 to P4 help them practise sorting and placing numbers in the correct order. Children can estimate which ones hold the least and most.
- Children in P5 to P7 can explore the number of people in towns. They can order them from the lowest to highest number of people in each town. Children estimate how much water different containers hold.

Terms used

- Parallel lines - lines which are always the same distance apart and never meet – real life examples would include train tracks.
- Volume - the space taken up by a 3D object.
- Estimate: to make a reasonable guess.

[Numeracy and Mathematics activities](#)



Learning activities



Maths can be fun, and these activities are designed to be enjoyable. Sometimes we may use mathematical terms which are unfamiliar to you or your child. Please check handy hints and tips with these terms.

[Hints and tips](#)



Learning activities

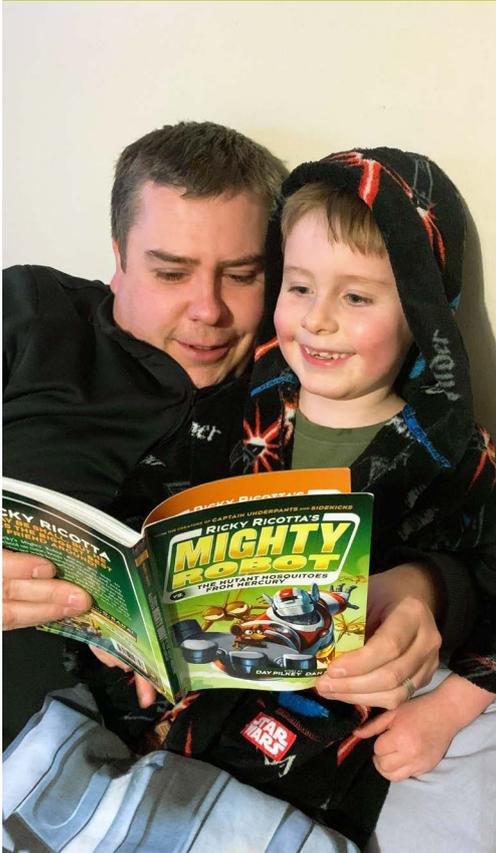
Health and wellbeing



Looking after our health and wellbeing as best we can is really important for us all in these uncertain times. We have ideas and activities appropriate for children and young people at different ages that you might like to include in your daily life as a family. These activities are designed to help develop and support your child's independence. Children are asked to think about choices and how to give and take.

- Read a story with your younger children (nursery age to P1). Think about a person in the story and the choices they make. Talk more with your child about choices. Help them to think about their own choices.
- Ask your child in P2 to P4 to think about the choices made by different people in a story. Talk about the choices. Does your child think they were good choices?
- Help your children in P5 to P7 to think about positive and negative choices and the consequence of each. Talk about how these choices might make people feel.
- Young people in S1 to S3 can take part in activities to help them understand how their choices can affect their wellbeing. Help them to think about choices and the decisions that they have made in the past. Ask them what things they thought about before they made their decision.

[Health and wellbeing activities](#)



Themed learning



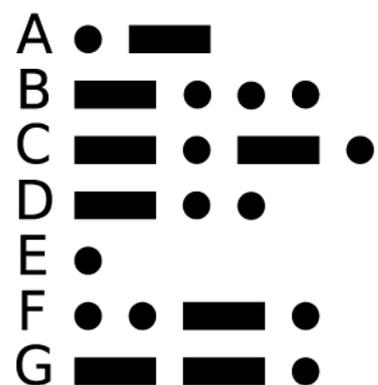
Each week, we suggest activities that cover different curriculum areas for children and young people learning at home. This week we are providing some ideas to explore your home and local area.

- There are ideas to help children in nursery or the early stages of primary school think about recycling at home. They can also find out simple ways of making wind power using everyday items.
- Older children might enjoy looking at the outdoors. They could name different kinds of birds and think about how trees grow.
- Young people in secondary school can think about road safety and how to keep themselves safe.
- **Young people in secondary school will also** find out about the use of codes including Morse Code during the Second World War.

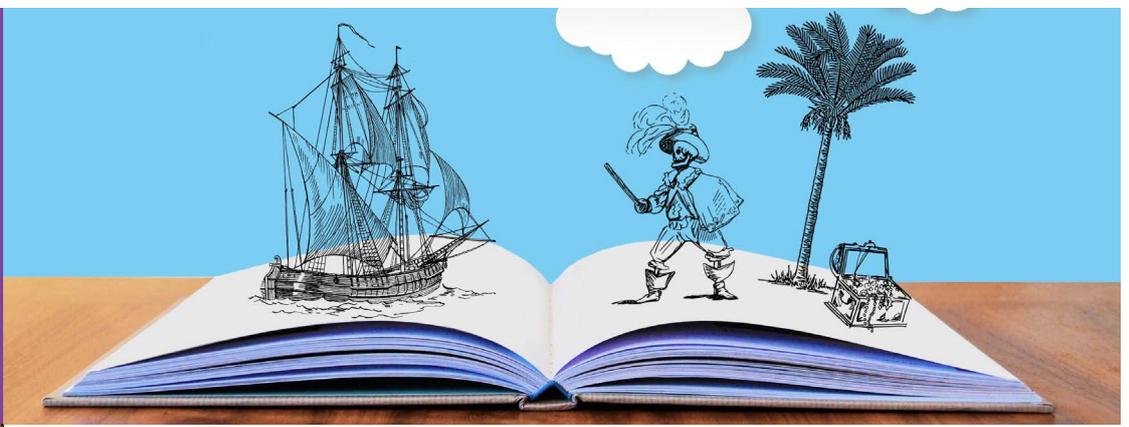
[Themed learning activities](#)



Learning activities



Themed learning



Learning activities through the medium of Gaelic

- We have shared some questions that you can use with your child to help their reading.
- We look at the use of Gaelic in 'our community'. When outdoors children can look for Gaelic businesses and groups in their community. Older children are asked to talk about an issue in their community. They can also write questions for a family quiz.
- This week's numeracy and mathematics activities help children practise their counting skills. They also learn about shapes. Young people in S1 to S3 use their skills to show information in graphs.
- To help your child to use Gaelic every day, they can join some live sessions on the website. Here you will find a range of activities such as baking, singing, storytelling and quizzes. These are led by Gaelic organisations who work with schools.



Foghlam
Meadhan Gàidhlig
Gaelic Medium
Education
learning activities

Abairtean/Phrases



Bi còir
Be kind



Bruidhinn ri chèile ann an Gàidhlig
Talk to each other in Gaelic



Smaoinich air daoine eile
Be considerate of others



Hints and tips



Each week we will share top tips and helpful advice for you as a family



Here are our top tips for this week

Top tips

Understanding social media

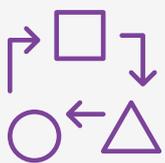
- Here is a practical [social media guide for parents and carers](#).
- Use Parentzone for helpful advice on social media websites and apps access [parent guides](#).
- Thinkuknow has advice about use of parental controls. Find their guidance at [parental controls](#).
- Find more online [safety tips](#).



Helping children requiring additional support

Some children and young people require additional support and extra help with their learning. This can be for a range of reasons which can change over time.

Enquire is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by Children in Scotland. The website gives more information to help understand what coronavirus changes may mean for children with additional support needs in Scotland. [Find out more](#).



Transitions

COVID-19 has changed the way that children and young are making transitions such as starting or leaving school. This week we have published [new advice and information](#) to help children and young people make safe and happy transitions in 2020.

What's New



Useful links



Story Competition

If your child is aged 11 -18 they may want to enter a competition to write in the Scots language. They could choose from a poem, a story, a play or a song. The theme is **Till a' the seas gang dry-** a line from Robert Burns' famous Scots poem *A red, red rose*. Stories need to be submitted by Wednesday 24 June.



Re-opening of schools

Pupils will return to schools in August subject to scientific advice that it is safe to do so. Find out more.



Nationwide Doorstep Samba band

Each week we have clapped to offer our support and thank NHS and other key workers who look after everyone in our community. The Music Education Partnership Group, have put together a doorstep **samba**. You can access a video with four easy samba rhythms or help your child make their own instruments. The doorstep samba band will take place on 4 June at 8pm.

You can share your family video of your samba on twitter with the following link @MusicEducatio10 with the #wmmdoorstepsamba



The Children's parliament has introduced #AdventuresAtHome.

A newspaper for children full of creative, fun activities and top tips to keep happy, healthy and safe during the pandemic.

Clear Your Head

Young people can still take part in the Young Scot Challenge. It is aimed at young people age 11 and over.



Useful links



Please apply and use the access code **'tartan'**

Free Solihull Online modules for parents

The Scottish Government is providing **free** access to Solihull online learning modules. The Solihull approach helps parents and carers to understand and reflect on children's behaviour. The online modules are available in several languages.

Creativity challenge for the week

WHAT IF...

WE HAD 7 FINGERS INSTEAD OF 5?

Imagine a world where we had **7 fingers** on each hand instead of 5! What would be different?

Think of as many things as you can. The more you can think of the better!

Now imagine that we had **3 legs** instead of 2 !!!

If you get stuck, then keep trying.

Children can do this on their own or with a parent. You can shout out your ideas or use a pen and paper to write them down.



[Watch the 'What if...'](#) clip on YouTube



Sign up →

Why not get this newsletter emailed directly to you each week? Or pass it on to anyone you think might be interested?