



Learning at Home

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Learning at Home

Hints and Tips for Parents and Carers



This document aims to provide you with suggestions and ideas to ensure that your child can access learning from home in unusual circumstances.

We know that the idea of supporting your child's learning can seem daunting. It is important to remember that you are not expected to become a teacher and that your child does not need to learn in the same way as they do in school or nursery. The most important aspect is the relationship that you already have with your child, this will enable you to support and reassure them during this time.



Whilst your child is used to structure and routine at school or nursery and it is important that some of this is provided at home in order to support them to adapt to change, above all, ensuring that a sense of fun is retained through all activities that you share with your child is vital. A variety of different activities such as board games, puzzles or outdoor games can help your child to further develop skills such as problem solving, turn taking, cooperating with others and resilience. There is no right or wrong; playing a board game in the evening can be just as valuable as completing a maths worksheet.

All children and young people will routinely be provided with work from their school. This should form the basis of your child's day around which you can plan other activities. On a typical day, teachers will set literacy and numeracy work and activities from one or two other curricular areas such as social studies or health and wellbeing.

Not all activities should require direct adult support, plan so that children can undertake some activities independently in order to ensure that you can continue to work at home if necessary. It is important to make sure that your child isn't sitting working online all day- factor in time for breaks, lunch, shared activities, time outdoors and fresh air. If you feel that your child is losing focus or not engaging, respond to this and take a break. Nothing has to be set in stone. Children should understand that it is OK to get stuck or to be unsure at times. On these occasions, if you are unsure as to how to best help them become 'unstuck', they will be able to contact their teacher through Google Classroom. It may be best to put the task on hold and move on to something else until their teacher responds. Teachers will interact with your child through the online platform that the school is using. They will check in to see how your child is doing, not only in terms of their school work but their general wellbeing. Teachers will provide feedback on completed activities and will be on hand to offer support, advice or reassurance when required. **Please be aware that teachers may not respond immediately, they will be busy working on other activities but will respond when they can.**

Finally and most importantly, remember that you are not alone. School staff are keen to support you and your child wherever they can. There's no such thing as a 'silly' question. If you are in doubt, please use the online platforms to communicate with staff or for specific issues linked to Glow access or IT please email the 'School Mail' address for your child's school schoolmail@thornliebank.e-renfrew.sch.uk. School websites and Twitter feeds will have helpsheets and guides on specific areas such as accessing Glow and Google Classroom etc.

Imaginative play



Play materials which are common, household objects are just as educational and can actually be more fun and helpful for promoting imagination and creativity than expensive toys from shops.

<https://www.playscotland.org/parents-families/loose-parts-play/>

<http://www.hanen.org/Helpful-Info/Articles/Toys-that-kick-start-the-imagination!.aspx>

When playing with children, **particularly young children**, commenting on what you see rather than asking too many questions shows them that you are really interested and paying attention. This really does work – try it! (E.g. “You’ve worked so hard on that. I love the colours you’ve used!”)

Home learning ideas for younger children: <https://abcdoes.com/home-learning/>

It’s never too late to develop your playful, humorous side. You can reclaim your inner child by setting aside *regular, quality playtime*. The more you play, joke, and laugh - the easier it becomes.

<https://www.playscotland.org/parents-families/>

Family Lockdown Tips & Ideas – a new and very popular Facebook group set up to share ideas for indoor and garden activities – it is a private group which you need to join in order to access the resources.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/871176893326326>

Other ideas for imaginative play

Children should be encouraged to use simple ‘junk’ materials to allow them to create and make things using their own imagination. Cardboard boxes/tubes, yoghurt tubs, paper, material and clothes can all be used to create imaginative worlds, toys and objects which allow children to develop fine and gross motor skills as well as problem solving skills .

Some ideas include:

Creating a car, boat, rocket or imaginary vehicle. Encourage children to describe an imaginary adventure.



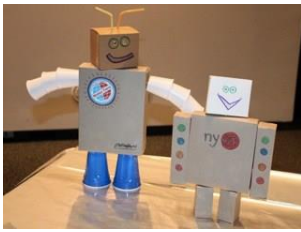
Create a puppet theatre, perform a puppet show, write a script!



Create a robot using cereal boxes and other materials. Make a comic strip telling a story about the robot.



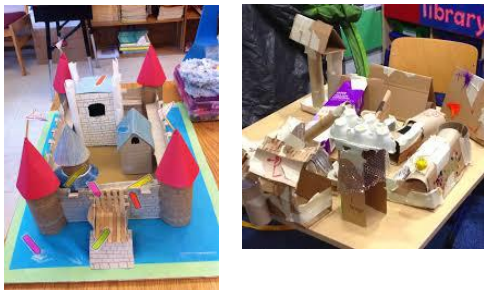
strip telling a



Set up a restaurant. Junk could be used to create food and other items like a pizza oven. Children could create a menu and posters for their restaurant and design a logo or uniform.



Design and build a 'Fairytale' Castle or a house for a character from a story such as '3 Little Pigs'



Outdoor Learning

Ideas and useful websites:

<https://www.outdoorlearningmadeeasy.co.uk/>

<https://www.ltl.org.uk/parents/>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-2546530-summer-outdoor-learning-activities-parent-and-carer-information-sheet>

BBC Gardening - if you are lucky enough to have a garden, make the most of it as spring kicks in. It's good exercise and any fresh air is good. http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/gardening_with_children/

Some other simple ideas:

- Go on a mini beast hunt. Count the number of mini beasts you find and record using tally marks. Create a graph to show your findings. Carefully observe and draw your favourite mini beast.

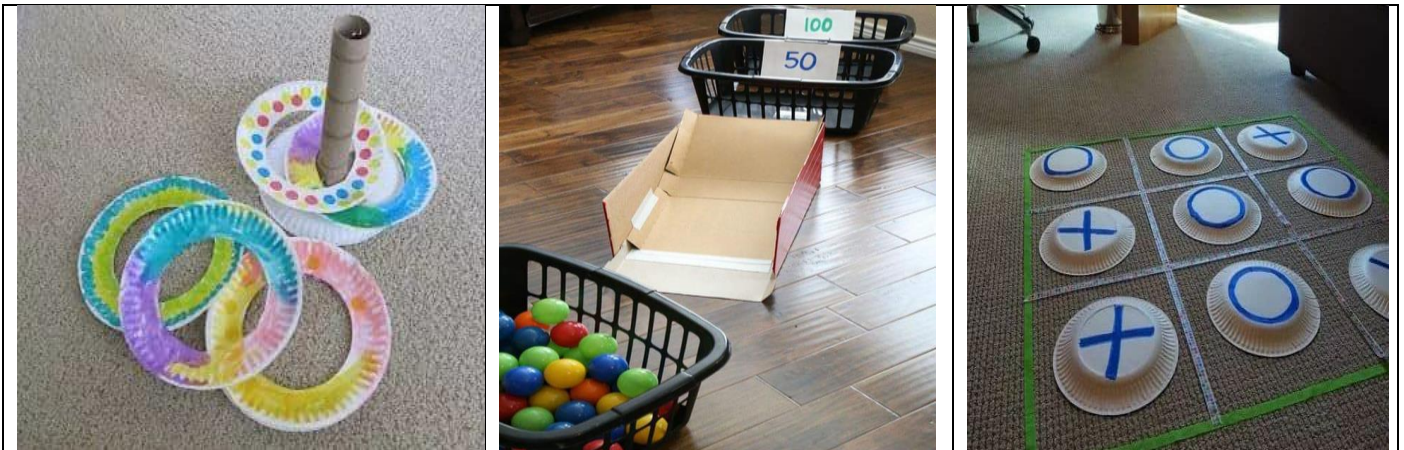
Create and label a diagram of a mini beast. Create a mini beast hotel.

<https://www.wildlifebcn.org/blog/helen-daniel/30-days-wild-day-eleven-build-bee-hotel>

- Build a den with natural resources. Read stories with and to your family in the den.
- Talk with family and friends about games they used to play outside. Try playing these together as a family. Invent new family games to play outside.

Games/Activities

Below are some other activities and games that could be made using household materials and some that need no resources at all!





MOTHERCOULD PLAY DOUGH

YOU'LL NEED:

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup table salt
- 2 tbsp cream of tartar
- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 cup boiling water
- Food coloring

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a bowl, combine the flour, salt and cream of tartar. Mix well.
2. Add the oil
3. Mix a few drops of food coloring into the boiling water and add to the bowl.
4. Mix everything very well and massage with your hand until it is no longer sticky.
5. Once it has fully cooled, wrap in plastic and put in an airtight container. Store at room temperature for about 6 months.



MOTHERCOULD FIZZY BLOCKS

YOU'LL NEED:

- 1 cup baking soda
- 1tsp clear gelatin
- 1/4 cup water
- Food coloring
- Ice cube tray
- Vinegar

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Mix together the baking soda and gelatin.
2. Add a few drops of food coloring to the water and pour into the baking soda mixture. Mix well.
3. Separate the mixture evenly into the ice cube tray.
4. Freeze overnight.
5. Remove the cubes from the tray and pour some vinegar on top. Watch it fizz.



MY 2020 COVID-19 TIME CAPSULE



BY: _____

INDOOR SCAVENGER HUNT

- Find a fork.
- Find something that is red.
- Find a tissue box.
- Find 3 things that have wheels.
- Find an orange crayon.
- Find something that is very soft.
- Find a band-aid.
- Find a key.
- Find 2 socks that match.
- Find something round.
- Find a sticker.
- Find a rubber band.
- Find a pair of glasses.
- Find an envelope.



RAINBOW SCAVENGER HUNT

- 🌈 Find something red.
- 🌈 Find something yellow.
- 🌈 Find something orange.
- 🌈 Find something green.
- 🌈 Find something blue.
- 🌈 Find something purple.
- 🌈 Name a Fruit that is red.
- 🌈 Name an animal that is yellow.
- 🌈 Name a vegetable that is orange.
- 🌈 Name a plant that is green.
- 🌈 Name a Flower that is purple.
- 🌈 Name something outside that is blue.



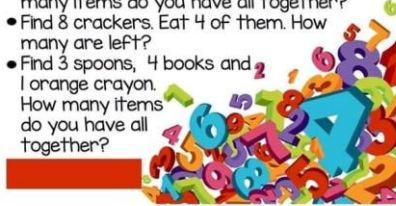
INVENTOR SCAVENGER HUNT

- Find something that you can turn.
- Find something that is bumpy.
- Find something that is metal.
- Find something you put together.
- Find 3 things that are round.
- Find something you twist.
- Find something shiny.
- Find something you can roll.
- Find a tube.
- Find 3 things that are squishy.
- Find something clear.
- Find something that can bounce.



MATH SCAVENGER HUNT

- Find 2 pencils and 1 blue crayon. How many items do you have now?
- Find 5 blocks and 2 pennies. How many items do you have now? Take away 3 blocks. How many items are left?
- Find 4 socks and 2 stuffed animals. How many items do you have all together?
- Find 8 crackers. Eat 4 of them. How many are left?
- Find 3 spoons, 4 books and 2 orange crayon. How many items do you have all together?



BOOK SCAVENGER HUNT

- Find an animal in a book.
- Find the word spring in a book.
- Find someone helping someone in a book.
- Find a picture of a sun in a book.
- Find a book that makes you laugh.
- Find a bug in a book.
- Find someone sleeping in a book.
- Find a character eating in a book.
- Find a pet in a book.
- Find a cat in a book.
- Find a superhero in a book.
- Find a bike in a book.



Online Learning Resources Links

Maths

[2nd Level Lesson 1: Part-part-whole \(whole unknown\) - YouTube](#)

[Home | Prodigy Education \(prodigygame.com\)](#)

[Maths At Home \(transum.org\)](#)

[Free S1 & S2 Maths - National 5 Maths](#)

[Primary mathematics resource packages | STEM](#)

Literacy

[ReadTheory | Free Reading Comprehension Practice for Students and Teachers](#)

[Stay at Home! – Cranachan Publishing](#)

[News & Views - Home Learning Films to Stream on BBC iPlayer and All4 - News - Into Film](#)

[Resources – FRED's Teaching Reading \(wordpress.com\)](#)

[Talk for Writing English Booklets - Talk for Writing \(talk4writing.com\)](#)

[Spotify – 101 George Street | Podcast on Spotify](#)

[Literacy Shed Plus - Reading Comprehension Packs](#)

[The Happy Newspaper](#)

[Home - THE LITERACY SHED](#)

HWB

[SCARF: Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship \(coramlifeeducation.org.uk\)](#)

[ThingLink](#)

[Health and Wellbeing January 2021 by Kate Brandwood \(prezi.com\)](#)

[Home - Oak National Academy \(thenational.academy\)](#)

[Healthy Schools](#)

[Glasgow HSCP South Sector: CYP Mental Health Supports in Schools \(nhsggc.org.uk\)](#)

Other Curricular Areas

Art

[#DrawWithRob — Rob Biddulph](#)

[Colour Block of Teaching \(canva.com\)](#)

ICT

[Primary computing resources | STEM](#)

Social Subjects

[Our Planet | Resources for Schools and Young People](#)

[Search Results for “Attenborough” – Father Reading Every Day \(wordpress.com\)](#)

[Our Planet Educational Resources | WWF](#)

Music

[Tutorial with Mr McNulty - YouTube](#)

Science

[GCSE Home School Activities - Google Drive](#)

[STEM with Mr N - YouTube](#)

[Big Garden Birdwatch | Join the fun - The RSPB](#)

[Earth LIVE Lessons - YouTube](#)

[Primary | STEM](#)

[Primary science resource packages | STEM](#)

General

[Second Level Home Learning \(thinglink.com\)](#)

[Morning Challenges & Start of the Day Activities for Primary Schools](#)

[Mr Minchin - YouTube](#)

[ThingLink](#)

[SOFT STARTERS 2020 by Kate Brandwood on Prezi Next](#)

[Free Stock Videos, Download Royalty Free Videos - Mixkit](#)

[Learning tools and flashcards - for free! | Quizlet](#)

[AQUILA Resources - Aquila Children's Magazine](#)

[Escape Room Puzzles | Escape From Home](#)

[Digital Learning in 2021 - We're Ready When You Are \(twinkl.co.uk\)](#)

[Primary Homework Help | Online Games For Kids - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Secondary Homework Help | Online subjects - BBC Bitesize](#)

Outdoor Learning

[Outdoor Learning CPD Training & Resources - The Muddy Puddle Teacher](#)

[Home | Love Outdoor Learning - Enhancing Learning Outdoors](#)

[Outdoor learning ideas | Outdoor Lesson ideas | LtL](#)