

# Whinhill Nursery Class And Gaelic Nursery

## Shared home learning activities



We have gathered some home learning activity ideas.  
We hope you enjoy exploring them together.

Do as much or as little as you wish.

We are so excited to see what activities you have tried.

Please take lots of pictures of all the learning you have been doing at home and  
tweet them to us @WhinhillN



Why not keep a scrap book and display your child's learning journey. You can include  
photographs, drawings and captions of your child's words and thoughts.  
This can be brought into nursery and added to your child's learning profile.





## Bright ideas

Pre-writing activities to help develop and strengthen finger and hand muscles while developing hand eye co-ordination.

### Sensory Tray

Fill a shallow tray with salt or dry rice. Encourage your child to make marks with their fingers.

**Top Tips:** Explore, letters numbers and simple shapes as you play.



### Squishy Bag

$\frac{3}{4}$  fill a large zip lock bag with paint/ custard or something of similar texture. Lock the bag and tape it onto a flat surface, explore pushing the contents around with fingers to make marks.



### Shaving Foam Fun

Spread some foam onto a flat surface and encourage your child to use their fingers to make marks.



### Steamy windows

The next time your windows steam up, encourage your child to draw a picture on the window using their fingers.



### Rice cakes

Fill a large bowl with dry rice, lentils or peas. Provide lots of small cups, cake cases, cake trays and spoons of different sizes. Encourage your child to use the spoons to carefully fill the containers as they play.



### Playdough

Follow our simple dough recipe and whip up a batch of playdough with your child. Encourage your child to squash, squeeze and roll the dough as they play.

**Top Tip:** Add buttons, beads, or pipe cleaners to create a dough model.



### Gloop

Mix corn-flour with water to create an interesting texture. Explore with hands or add spoons and cups to encourage filling and emptying.

**Top Tip:** Try adding more or less water, talk about and compare differences.



### Finger Painting

Create a picture using your fingers and paint.



### Fasten Fun

Collect a variety of clothing items with various fastenings. Poppers, zips, toggles and buttons.

Encourage and support your child as they have a go.



## Finger Rhymes

Sing some of our finger rhyme songs. Encouraging your child to move fingers as they count.



## Finger Picker Challenge

Collect small items such as marbels, beads, past pieces or small buttons. Encourage your child to pick them up one at a time using thumb and pointer finger. Then try thumb and middle finger.

**Top Tip:** Set a short timer and try and beat your score. How many items can you move?



## Drawing

Encourage your child to draw a picture, using a variety of writing tools. Pencils, crayons and chalk.

**Top Tip:** Use short, chunky pencils or crayons to help with correct grip. Wrapping an elastic band around the grip section of a thin pencil will help.



## Lacing/ Threading

Remove laces from a shoe or boot. Encourage and support your child to thread the lace in and out of the holes.

**Challenge:** Begin to demonstrate how to tie a lace.



## Snipping

If you have child safe scissors at home, give your child old magazines or catalogues to practice snipping and cutting techniques.



## Draw People

Encourage your child to draw a person with details such as eyes, nose, mouth, hair, hands and fingers.



## Bright ideas



Physical activities to help develop Gross Motor skills.

## Ball Skills

Play catch with a large ball. Practice throwing, catching, rolling and bouncing.

**Challenge:** Try using a smaller ball such as a tennis ball.



## Balancing

Create balancing lines using electrical tape, chalk or planks of wood. Encourage your child to carefully walk along the lines. Create imaginative games such as walking the plank.



## Moving

Encourage your child to move in different ways during games. Lets crawl , run, jump or hop.



**Bright ideas**  Literacy activities to help develop early reading skills and listening and talking skills.

**Share a Story**

Encourage your child to choose a story. Start with reading the Title and the Blurb on the back page (it will give your child clues about the story). Talk about the main characters and events afterwards. Talk about what might happen next?



**What happened?**

Draw a picture of a character from a story you have just read. Talk about what happened. **Top Tip:** Scribe your child's words on the paper, encourage them to retell events in their own words.



**My Story**

Using objects found around the house, try and re-enact part of a familiar story. What character will you be? **Top Tip:** Imagine! Imagine! Imagine! Follow your child's lead.



**Rhyme Time**

Read a rhyming story or say a nursery rhyme. Point out any rhyming words that you hear. Encourage your child to say a word that rhymes with a given word. Say some nursery rhymes together, encouraging your child to say the missing words.



**Talking Time**

Your child may want to share their learning with a family member. Encourage your child to recap on their day, sharing their ideas and experiences. **Top Tip:** You may want to record your child talking about their fav story or sharing an experience. Your welcome to tweet this to us.



**Puppet Making**

Decorate old socks, wooden spoons, plastic bottles or dolly pegs to make puppet characters, use these to make a puppet theatre.



**Kiddle**

Kiddle is the child friendly version of Google. Use this search engine to find out something about:

- Your favourite animal
- Recycling
- The weather
- Your choice



**Questions Questions??**

Think of some simple questions to ask about a story you have read together. **Challenge:** can your child ask you a question?



**Song Time**

Listen and sing along to some Book Bug songs. Download the book bug app on your tablet or phone now.



## Words In The World

Go on a word finding hunt, looking for all sorts of environmental print. Take pictures of all the words you find. You can tweet your pictures to us if you wish.



## Noisey House

Encourage your child to cover their eyes and guess what sound you are making.

**Some ideas:** turn tap on, flush toilet, knock door, jingle keys.



## Music Making

**Drum kit:** Pots, pans and wooden spoons.

**Shaker:** bottles filled with rice.

**Guitar:** Cereal box and elastic bands.

**Chimes:** Coat hanger and metal spoons.



## Kim's Game

Lay out 4 objects. Talk about each one and discuss what it is and what it's used for.

Once your child has named each object, cover them up with a dish cloth. Hide one object at a time and ask "What's missing".

**Challenge:** Add more objects, remove more than one object



## Treasure Hunt

Write down 5-10 very simple instructions for your child to follow. Place them in a box and let your child choose one note or (clue) at a time.

Read each note out loud.

Eg. "Get a teddy", "put a doll on the bed", "put a shoe under the chair"

reward your child with a surprise once completed.



## Red, Amber Green

When you say **Red** your child should Stop and be still.

When you say **Amber** your child should run on the spot.

When you say **Green** your child should run.



## Bright ideas

## Maths & Numeracy activities.

### Shape Prints

Collect various house hold containers such as yoghurt pots, bottle lids etc. (recycling packaging works well).

Provide paint and encourage your child to dip items in paint and print shapes onto paper. Talk about the shapes they are creating.



### Shape Spotting

Collect and spot as many shapes as possible around the house or local area, take photographs of each shape.

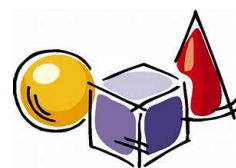
**Challenge:** If you are able to print your photos, encourage your child to **group** and **sort** all the shapes that are the same. Stick the pictures onto paper.



### Junk Models

Collect junk materials in a range of 3D shapes. Use them to create a model. Compare and talk about the shapes you use. Take a photo of your model.

**Top Tip:** introduce new language- straight, flat, curved.





### This Way That Way

Carry your child on your back or hold hands. Explain that they must help you get to a particular room. You want to encourage your child to use new positional language. Such as: **Forwards, backwards, turn right, turn left, step up, and step down.**

This activity is lots of fun and even better when they get it wrong, have fun!

**Challenge:** Count your steps as you go



### Mirror Picture

Paint a picture and fold it in half. When you open it up again talk about how it looks. Does the picture look the same on both sides?

**Challenge:** If you have a mirror at hand explore lines of symmetry by holding the mirror over magazine pictures etc. How do the pictures change?



### Number Pegs

Write number symbols 0-10 on some clothes pegs. Place the pegs in order on a clothes dryer or small washing line. Count the pegs with your child and give them opportunities to explore and re-order them.

**Challenge:** remove a peg from the line, can your child guess the number? Take turns to remove a peg.



### Counting Up & Down

When you are walking up stairs count 0-10+. When you come back down count backwards to 0.



### Jumble Socks

Mix up various socks and help your child find all the matching pairs.

**Top Tip:** give your child some pegs and a rope and allow them to hang the pairs together.

**Challenge:** Can they sort the socks by size or colour?



### Number Walk

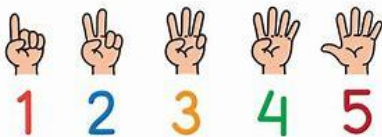
Go on a number hunt in your home or in your local community. You can take photographs of all the numbers you see.

**Top Tip:** If you can print your pictures. Let your child sort all the numbers that are the same.



### Number Songs

Encourage finger counting as you sing number songs. Encourage your child to show you numbers with their fingers.



### Setting The Table

Give your child an opportunity to help set the dinner or breakfast table. **Reinforce how many!**

How many people?

How many plates?

How many forks?

How many cups?

**Challenge:** introduce new language- more, less, full and empty.



### Loose parts Play

Collect various natural materials found outside or around the home. Allow children to investigate and be creative with them. This play gives children open ended opportunities to design, problem solve, count, sort and group.



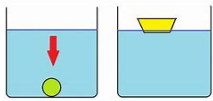
**Bright ideas**  **S.T.E.A.M Science, technology, engineering, arts and maths activities**

**Float or Sink**

Collect various household objects suitable for floating or sinking.

Can your child predict what will happen?

Can they record on paper with a tick or cross?




**Baking**

Choose a simple biscuit or cake recipe.

Encourage your child to count and measure ingredients with you. Talk about how the mixture changes.

How does it look now?

How does it smell now?

How does it feel now?

How does it taste now?

**Rainbow Milk**

Place skittle (sweets) around a small plate to form a complete circle. Pour milk into the centre and watch your rainbow appear.

**Top Tip:** Try with water what works best??




**Frozen!!!**

Fill up small containers with water. Place small objects into the water such as flowers, figures, marbles etc. Ask your child to help you pop them in the freezer.

Once frozen solid your child can explore the ice. Is there anything they can do to melt the ice faster??




**Dissolving Discovery**

Gather a few spoonfuls of some house hold food substances. **Eg. salt, sugar, gravy, hot chocolate powder, sand, pasta pieces, lentils, bicarbonate of soda.**

Pour one glass of water per substance. Talk to your child about dissolving. If it dissolves it will disappear!

Let your child add each substance to a glass of water. Can they guess what will happen? Can they talk about what did happen?

**Build A Boat**

Can you use junk materials to build a small boat that you can float in the bath. What can you do to make your boat move?




**Sticky pictures**

Provide paper, glue, scissors and various items for sticking e.g. tissue paper, wrapping paper, old birthday cards, loose buttons, gift bows.

**Top Tip:** Mix flour and water into a paste to make your own glue.

**Bubble Prints**

Add washing up liquid to a cup of poster paint. Give your child a straw and ask them to **blow** into the paint. As the bubbles appear print them onto some paper.




**Play Shop**

Set up a shop using real food items such as tins, boxes and packets. Real potatoes, carrots and onions. Children will be able to feel the weight differences and explore fruit and veg using their senses.

**Top Tip:** provide paper/pens for shopping lists.

# Bright ideas Dough Recipes



## 1. 1-2-3 PLAY DOUGH

1 cup cold water

1 cup salt

3 cups flour

2 teaspoons vegetable oil

Add paint or food coloring (adjust amount for color desired)

Mix the water, salt, oil and paint together.

Gradually work in the flour until you get the consistency of bread dough.

## BABY OIL PLAYDOUGH RECIPE

2 cups flour

1 cup salt

4 teaspoons cream of tartar

2 cups water plus food coloring

2 tablespoons baby oil (other oil can work, too)

Place over low heat and stir often until playdough is consistency of mashed potatoes. Knead when cool



## MASHED POTATO PLAYDOUGH

5 potatoes or packet of smash

3 cups flour

Bake potatoes in their skins until they are 'eating consistency' soft. Peel and then mash the potatoes. Combine three cups flour to every four cups of mashed potato and roll until you form a good dough.



## SILK DOUGH

2 cups of hair conditioner

1 cup corn flour

Mix ingredients together to form a silky dough that will smell fabulous.

Find more dough recipes: <https://kidactivities.net/play-dough-recipes/>



## Bright ideas Useful web links



- Scottish Book Trust (Download the Bookbug App now)  
<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug>
- BBC Bitesize  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zf7hgwx>
- Oxford Owl-activities for all ages  
<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/fun-ideas-learning-at-home/>
- Twinkl Education resources  
[www.twinkl.co.uk/offer](http://www.twinkl.co.uk/offer) **FOR ONE MONTH FREE ACCESS USE  
CODE:UKTWINKLHELPS**
- Top marks Educational resources  
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/The>
- Imagination Tree - Creative play and learning for kids.  
<https://theimaginationtree.com/>
- Cbeebies - games and activities  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies>
- Activity ideas  
[www.nhs.uk/ggc/org.uk/kids](http://www.nhs.uk/ggc/org.uk/kids)