

Fun things to do at home

It is really important to use what you know about children's stages of development when making suggestions of activities they can do at home that are playful and fun. For children demonstrating learning and development behaviours noted in the left-hand column, here are some suggestions you can make to parents and carers of 'fun things to do at home'. This will help children consolidate their developmental stage in the prime areas of learning and support them to acquire new skills or concepts.

EYFS Prime areas of learning (30 – 50 months)		
Communication and Language	Things to do	Things you might need
<p>Listens to stories with increasing attention and recall.</p> <p>Joins in with repeated refrains and anticipates key events and phrases in rhymes and stories.</p>	<p>Sing and share nursery rhymes every day.</p> <p>Read stories to your child and chat about the story. Make puppets with your child to help you tell the story. Re-enact the story with the puppets afterwards, encouraging your child to use their own words.</p> <p>Encourage your child to join in with the story and talk about what's going to happen next.</p>	<p>Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Humpty Dumpty, Jack and Jill, Ride a Cock Horse, Mary Mary quite contrary, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Once I caught a Fish Alive, London Bridge is falling down, Hey Diddle Diddle, Baa Baa Black Sheep, Hickory Dickory Dock, Polly put the kettle on, This old man...', Sing a song of sixpence, Little Miss Muffet, 3 Blind Mice, Ring-a-Ring-o'-roses...</p> <p>Lolly sticks, paper bags, sellotape, felt pens, fabric pieces, paper, card, glue, sequins, ribbon, any bits you have</p>
<p>Responds to simple instructions, for example, to get or put away an object</p>	<p>Encourage your child to help you with household tasks such as sorting the laundry, tidying a room, sorting out a drawer, working in the garden and talk all the time. Describe what you are doing as you work together on tasks and encourage your child to do the same.</p>	<p>Your home and everything in it</p>
Physical Development		

<p>Moves freely and with pleasure and confidence in a range of ways, such as slithering, shuffling, rolling, crawling, walking, running, jumping, skipping, sliding and hopping.</p>	<p>Make an obstacle course using cushions, chairs, clothes airers, duvets, blankets, pillows and encourage your child to move around, over, under, between, in different ways. Save the more energetic ones for outdoors.</p> <p>Put number labels on them the items to add maths to the activity and encourage your child to move around the items in order</p> <p>For a Springtime activity, hop like a rabbit, jump like a frog, skip like a lamb and so on. You could make symbols to hold up and each time you swap them, your child has to do a different action. Consider swapping roles and you do the actions.</p>	<p>Cushions, chairs, small tables, clothes airers, stools, pillows etc</p> <p>Home-made number cards/labels</p>
<p>Uses one-handed tools and equipment</p>	<p>Use child scissors to cut different materials, cards, paper, greaseproof paper, tissues, kitchen roll, cardboard tubes, foil, straws</p> <p>Use child scissors, child knives or kitchen utensils to help prepare food for meals such as chopping, grating, slicing, snipping vegetables,, fruit, cheese, and herbs</p> <p>Make an egg-shaped book, stapling it to form a binding. Make each page into an Easter or Spring celebration of things you can see or find out about, for example eggs, lambs, new flowers, buds on trees and bushes, sunshine and so on.</p>	<p>Safe scissors, materials: card, paper, greaseproof paper, tissues, kitchen roll, card tubes, straws</p> <p>Safe knives, graters, safe vegetable peelers,</p>
<p>Observes the effects of activity on their bodies</p>	<p>Play 'Simon Says'. Encourage your child to move vigorously then talk about how they feel (puffed out, breathing deeply, heart moving fast, feeling hot). Then as they calm down, talk about the changes that are happening to them.</p>	<p>Lots of energy!</p>
<p>Personal Social and Emotional Development</p>		

<p>Enjoys responsibility of carrying out small tasks.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to join in with everyday tasks such as making beds, folding washing, drying up and putting dishes away. Make a list of their 'chores' and place a marble/pebble in a jar each day that they complete them.</p> <p>Plant some seeds in pots on your windowsill and watch them grow. Encourage your child to look after them by watering them and noticing the change that happens.</p> <p>Do some cooking together that may include making some chocolate nests for Easter.</p>	<p>Your home</p> <p>Compost, small pots and seeds or bulbs</p> <p>Cereal, chocolate, cake cases</p>
<p>Can usually tolerate delay when needs are not immediately met and understands wishes may not always be met.</p> <p>Can usually adapt behaviour to different events, social situations and changes in routine.</p>	<p>Don't worry about having to get on with your household jobs/work for short periods of time. Encourage your child to think of things they can do independently to develop their independence.</p> <p>This current situation is a perfect time for this to be developed. See it as a learning opportunity.</p>	
<p>Can play in a group, extending and elaborating play ideas, e.g. building up a role-play activity with other children.</p>	<p>Make and develop your own role play area such as a shop, a house, a train, a castle, a spaceship, a hairdresser and have fun playing in it with your child. Be a customer, a passenger, a knight, an astronaut.</p>	<p>Chairs, clothes airers, large boxes, small tables, blankets, towels, pegs, sheets, duvet covers.</p>