

Fun things to do at home

It is really important to use what you know about children's stage 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 Specific areas of learning (40 – 60 months)		
Literacy	Things to do	Things you might need
Uses vocabulary and forms of speech that are increasingly influenced by their experiences of books.	<p>Read several books each day. Talk about the books that you read/share:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does your child like about the story? • How are the stories similar? How are they different? • Which is their favourite page? <p>Talk about the language of stories, for example. 'Once upon a time...', 'Happily ever after', and everything in between.</p>	<p>Story books that includes traditional tales and more modern favourites</p>
Knows that information can be retrieved from books and computers.	<p>Find things out from books or use the internet to find out about things your child is interested in. Encourage your child to make their own non-fiction book about something they're interested in, for example animals, superheroes, space, unicorns, transport and so on.</p> <p>As spring is here, find out about things that are happening in the outside world. Then go out and see what you can find. Find some buds in your garden or along your street, in the countryside, then identify them in a book or on a computer/IPAD/phone.</p>	<p>Dictionaries, non-fiction books</p> <p>PC, tablet, phone to access 'Google'</p>
Begins to break the flow of speech into words.	<p>Make a story map with your child. Draw a large road on a piece of wallpaper or flattened out cardboard box. Plot the story from beginning to end along the road. It could be a well-known story or one you make up together. You can write the words for your child and they can write some if they are able. They can add objects to help tell the story, for example, a house they've made from Lego.</p>	<p>Roll of wallpaper. Pens, toys such as dolls house furniture, construction sets, soft toys</p>

Writes own name and other things such as labels, captions.	Make some posters to go around your house. Examples include, keep room/drawers tidy, wash hands for 20 seconds, daily chores.	Paper, pens, pencils, crayons etc
Maths	Things to do	Things you might need
Estimates how many objects they can see and checks by counting them.	Play a game, estimating how many items you will each be able to pick up in a handful. All of the family can take turns. Write down your estimates then count to check how close you were.	Beans, shells, pencils, gems, coins, anything in a fairly large quantity
In practical activities and discussion, beginning to use the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting.	<p>Talk about subtraction/take-away when you're eating. Count how many grapes/strawberries/etc you have and how the number goes down with every one you eat.</p> <p>Place a homemade number line to 20 in front of each player and a pile of beans in the middle, between the players. Take turns to roll a dice. Count the dots on the dice. Take that many beans, put them in your own pile and move your counter along the number line. For example, if you roll a 5, move the counter along to number 5. When you roll the dice for the second time, take more beans and count how many you now have. Move the counter to that number. The first to 20 is the winner.</p>	<p>Food items</p> <p>Number lines to 20</p> <p>Beans</p> <p>Dice</p> <p>Counters/coins</p>
Orders two items by weight or capacity.	<p>Put a coat hanger on a door handle. Attach a plastic bag/small bucket on each side of the coat hanger and you've made a balance. Invite your child to put things in each side to see which goes up and down and decide which is heavier or lighter.</p> <p>You could make this an Easter activity by weighing or comparing eggs, beans or seeds.</p>	<p>Coat hanger</p> <p>Plastic bags</p> <p>Variety of items</p>

Orders and sequences familiar events.	<p>Make daily routine cards and put them in order such as getting out of bed, getting dressed, having breakfast and so on. Encourage your child to place them in order and move an arrow along them to indicate what is happening now. Talk about what happened earlier and what will happen next/later.</p> <p>For Easter you could make a zig-zag book about how a seed grows into a plant, or from an egg hatches a chick. Discuss the the whole life cycle of a seed or an egg.</p>	<p>Card</p> <p>Pens/pencils</p>
Understanding the World	Things to do	Things you might need
Enjoys joining in with family customs and routines.	Look at photos of things that you've done over the years as a family. Make a scrap book together.	<p>Photos</p> <p>Scrap book</p> <p>Glue scissors</p>
Looks closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change.	<p>Cut the top off a carrot and put it in a saucer of water and watch it sprout over a few days.</p> <p>Sow some cress seeds. You could use some clean empty egg shells or yogurt pots. Place some cotton wool inside and sprinkle some cress seeds on top. Keep the cotton wool moist and watch them grow.</p> <p>Gather some leaves from your garden. Look at the differences between them and talk about what you see, describe the patterns, colour, texture and smell. You may want to make rubbings of them.</p>	<p>Carrot, saucer, cress seeds, kitchen roll, leaves, paper and crayons</p>
Expressive Arts and Design	Things to do	Things you might need
Begins to build a repertoire of songs and dances.	Find 'sound-makers' around your home such as pots and pans. Tap the surfaces with wooden spoons, sticks, hands and so on.	<p>Wooden spoons</p> <p>Household items</p>

<p>Explores what happens when they mix colours.</p>	<p>Mix some primary coloured paints (red blue and yellow). Place each colour onto an old plate and encourage your child to place each of their hands in a different coloured paint, for e. one in blue and one in green. Then tell your child to rub their hands together and watch the magic happen! Print onto paper with their hands.</p>	<p>Paint Plates Paper</p>
<p>Creates simple representations of events, people and objects.</p>	<p>Painting with a variety of paints and brushes using different sorts of paper including wallpaper, coloured paper.</p> <p>Add some water to some mud outside and use sticks to make mud paintings on pieces of paper.</p>	<p>Paper, brushes paint Paper, mud, water, sticks</p>