



Helping your little's ones at home

Learning From Home Early Years

Website to support you and ideas for your child

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/fun-ideas-learning-at-home/fun-ideas-ages->

1. Sing together

Children enjoy exploring and experimenting with language and it helps them to learn new words and their meanings and also to listen to the sounds that make those words. So sing, rhyme, shout, whisper, rap and dance to the beat!

2. Painting and drawing

Give your child lots of opportunities to draw and paint. This is not only fun, but also can help to develop eye-hand coordination and control. Let them experiment with lots of different materials – paint brushes with a range of widths, pencils, crayons, chalks and finger paint. You could try playing music when they paint and draw as this can help to create a relaxing environment.

3. Hands-on games

- Use modelling clay to get creative and develop fine motor skills. If you don't have Modelling clay make your own.. salt dough
- Threading beads, macaroni (Pasta) or cotton reels on wool or string can help with eye-hand co-ordination and control.
- Joining the dots and drawing paths through simple mazes are not only fun but are a great way to develop eye-hand coordination and pen control.
- Enjoy jigsaws together and chat about finding the right pieces!

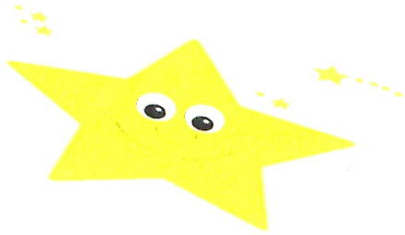
4. Reading books of all kinds together

Have fun reading books of all kinds to your child: picture, words and pictures, pop up, information and poetry. Why not choose a eBook from our library to share on-screen together?

Visit our [storyteller page](#) to watch videos of storytellers reading favourite traditional stories.

5. Talk about numbers around you

It's never too early to explore numbers with your child. Numbers are all around us, from calendars to the remote control, the telephone to car registration plates. Try pointing out numbers when you're out and about – on front doors, signs, the front of buses and train platforms. Talking about numbers around you early and often will help your child to recognize numerals and show them that numbers are part of everyday life.



Little stars preschool home rhymes for you to sing together

THE BENEFITS OF TEACHING YOUR CHILD NURSERY RHYMES

There are a lot of benefits of teaching your child or baby nursery rhymes from a young age; one being their cognitive development. The repetition found in the rhymes are good for your little one's brain and teaches them how language works while also building on their memory capabilities. In addition, nursery rhymes also help to develop inferencing skills - both when encountering new words and in reading comprehension later in life.

Baby nursery rhymes are also really important to your little one's speech development. They can help young children develop auditory skills such as being able to tell the difference between sounds and develop the ear for the music of words.

Please support your child log in to the link below.

Rhymes also help children to articulate words, practise pitch and volume, and enunciate early by saying them over and over again.

<https://www.emmasdiary.co.uk/baby/lets-play/nursery-rhymes>

Ideas

Painting small flower pots (could be a mother's day gift?)

Hungry caterpillar – Act out the story-bring in food to try – making cocoons from blankets – making caterpillars and butterflies.

The Gruffalo or Stick man – story – create woodland display – gruffalo/stick man collage (stick some netting on a board or paper and the children collect leaves /sticks/acorns and poke them through it) – role play

Goldilocks and the three bears – Bear masks-porridge tasting – story – role play

Rainbows – weather paper plate rainbow – add strips of tissue/crepe paper
Rainbow collage

Water balloon – sensory play – fill up lots of small balloons and float them in the water tray

Bubble wrap painting

Sock puppets – stick on materials-pipe cleaners- eyes

Cookie Numbers or cookie hearts

Chocolate hearts

Tissue paper heart cards/shapes all around us

Pattern hunt_ looking for patterns and textures inside/ outside to make rubbings with crayons/chalk

Sensory walk/ trays

Footprints in the sand_– Children will be making prints in wet sand using a variety of objects.

Zigzag snakes_– Recognising and recreating simple patterns, making a snake from paper.

Spider's webs_– Incey Wincey spider - can we make /draw a spider web – looking for webs inside / outside.

Life cycles_– Children will be learning about life cycles and the way that animals change over time. Pretending to be a baby then slowly getting bigger. Are you my mother? (book)

How we grow – Measuring sizes of hands, feet, height etc.

Seed pictures – using sunflower/pumpkin/lentils – different seeds to create pictures.

Collage using natural materials.

Transport – using the guttering (perhaps with colour added) to transport the water into buckets/tubs.

The wheels on the bus – singing – musical instruments – cardboard boxes to make bus (bus tickets) – using chairs as a bus.

Tracks – making painted tracks – tracks in the sand-shaving foam – gloop – big tyres rubbing patterns

Junk modelling – bottle tops for wheels

Different transport – what different transport is there – pictures/stories paper planes/hot air balloons using paper mache

Trip to the airport / train station?

Mini beasts

Super hero's day – dressing up - making capes – masks

Memory games – what's on the tray/in the box?

Number games using the big dice, move the number rolled – make big counters put children's faces on them. Making dice out of small boxes (ask parents to bring in small boxes) Paint them then paint / draw spots on them

Paper Mache Easter eggs

Play ideas to take home

Bubbles

Ingredients

To make 500ml (half a litre, just over 1 Imperial pint) of bubble liquid:



- 150ml Fairy Original washing-up liquid
- 350ml water
- 2 teaspoons (12ml) granulated or caster sugar

Equipment:

- One measuring jug, 500ml or larger
- One teaspoon (British size)
- One stirrer (eg. fork, spatula, wooden spoon)
- Bottle to store liquid (eg. used cola bottle, rinsed out)
- Funnel to transfer liquid from jug to bottle

Play ideas to take home

Garden play



Digging for Dinosaurs

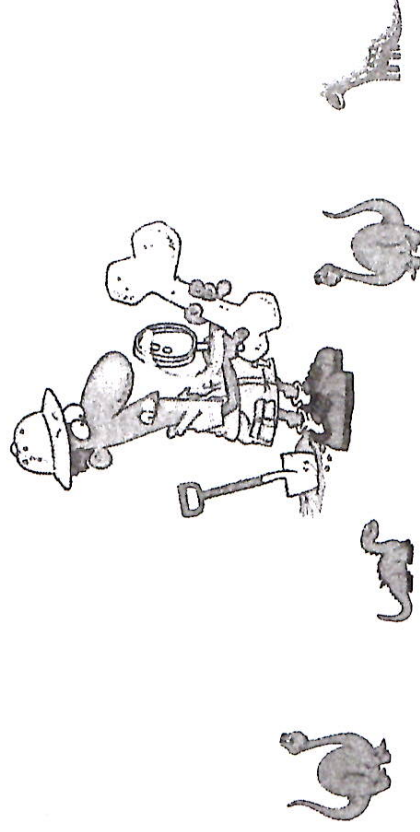


For an outside activity

You can bury toy dinosaurs in the garden and then have fun digging for them you could use spades and brushes to carefully dig them up.

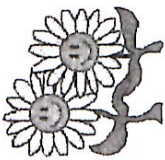
You can have a tub of water ready to give the dinosaurs a wash after.

If you don't have a garden you could use planters, tubs or even a sand tray,



Play Ideas to take home

Gardening



Children love to watch things grow and change, this can be done with just a pot, soil and some seeds.

You could try to grow you own runner bean plants, strawberries, tomatoes or radishes. Growing food teaches about where food comes from and encourages children to try eating different foods. You could also grow some flowers, Sunflowers are great as they grow so fast, grow one each and see who's reaches the top of the fence first!

Let the child explore all the textures talking about what things need to grow .. Sun, Water, soil etc.



Play Ideas to take home

Tast Safe Paint

Potato paint

- potato flakes
- Warm water
- Food colouring

Add warm water until you reach the desired texture.



Yoghurt paint

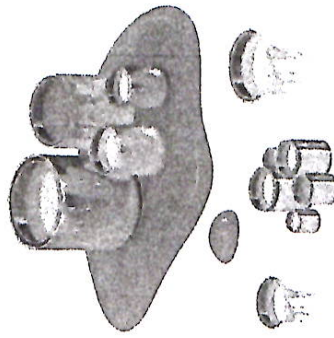
- Natural/Greek yoghurt
- Food colouring

Mix together

Corn Flour Paint

- 1 cup of corn flour
- 1/2 cup of cold water
- 1 cup hot water
- Food colouring

Add the cold water first then add the hot water a bit at a time until the correct consistency and then add the food colouring.



Play ideas to take home

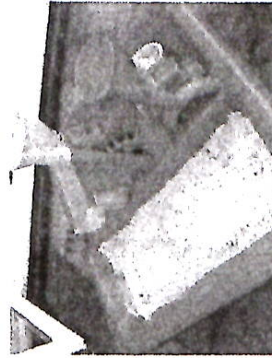
Sand play



Sand is a great idea for sensory play you can use it wet or dry you can use it for mark making you can use brushes, sticks or even your fingers and toes!

You can add toy animals, people, numbers or letters to the sand giving your child talking points while they play you could role play with you child using the props.

Use lots of questions that require more than yes/no answer.

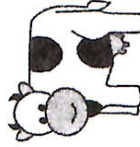


Play ideas to take home

Farm Animals

Using mud, straw or shredded paper you can put toy farm animals in to a tuff spot, bucket or tray cover the animals and then let the child find them you could sing Old McDonald had a farm as you find them.

Don't forget to talk about where the animals live, what sounds they make, food they eat and what the babies of that animal is called.



8 - 20 months: How can you help me with my learning?

Communication and Language

Listening and attention

- Share stories with me at bedtime or when we're snuggled up on the sofa.
- Sing songs to me when you're getting me dressed or changing my nappy.

Understanding

- Hold my hands to help me make the actions as you sing songs.

Speaking

- Tell me the names of things as I pick them up to explore.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making relationships

- Share photos of special grown ups with me.
- Let me meet special grown ups. Tell me their names.

Self confidence and self awareness

- Let me look in a mirror. Point to me and tell me that it's me in the mirror. Point to my nose, arms and legs and tell me what they are.

Managing feelings and behaviour

- Let me get my comforter or special toy when I'm feeling sad or tired.



Physical Development

Moving and handling

- Let me splash my hands and kick my feet in the bath.
- Give me a doll's buggy or trundle trike to push.
- Put my favourite toys on the floor so that I can crawl or bottom shuffle to them. Move them further away so give me a small challenge

- Let me lift the flaps in a board book and share my excitement in what is behind the flap!

- Give me dough so that I can squeeze or squash it with my hands or pake it with my fingers.

- At feeding, changing or bath times share finger play songs with me like "Round and round the garden".

Health and self care

- Let me use my fingers to help me feed myself.
- Let me try and use a spoon to eat my food with.

Mathematics

Numbers

- Let me explore a treasure basket with different things in it, like a collection of different types of spoons or a collection of shiny things.
- Sing number rhymes to me, like "Two Little Eyes to Look Around".

Shape, space and measure

- Let me explore different things to see what I can do with them, like a collection of different types and sizes of balls or things that will roll.

Expressive Arts and Design Exploring and using media and materials

- Let me use my hands and feet to find out what marks I can make with paint or to make bubbles pop.
- Make sock puppets move to music or songs as you sing to me.

Being imaginative

- I need to play with lots of different things to find out what I can do with them: scarves, boxes, rattles, safe mirrors

Understanding the World

People and communities

- I need to develop relationships with grown ups. Introduce me to people when we are out and about.

The world

- play "hide and seek" games where I have to find one of my toys.

Technology

- Give me different objects to explore: pots, pans, spoons, paper.



Literacy

Reading

- Take me to the library
- Let me hold the book as you share the story with me.
- Talk to me about what is happening in the pictures or who you can see in the pictures.
- Let me help you turn the pages of the book

Writing

- Give me chunky pencils / crayons / chalks to play with

Resources to help:

www.booktrust.org.uk/resources
www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk
www.literacytrust.org.uk/early_years
www.readangeton.org.uk

16 - 26 months: How can you help me with my learning?

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making relationships

- Play copying games with me, like using the same metal spoon as I've got to make the same noise that I'm making on the fence.

Self confidence and self awareness

- Share photos or videos of me doing things and talk with me about what I'm doing.
- Use my dolls or teddies to show me how to pretend to look after a baby or use my cars to show me how to pretend to go on a journey. Talk to me about the things you are using and what you are doing with them.

Managing feelings and behaviour

- Let me help you to share out the sandwiches and fruit onto plates, so that everyone has something to eat.

Communication and Language

Listening and attention

- Talk to me about the sounds we can hear when we go to the shops or the park.
- Make the sounds of animals and things when you're sharing a book with me.

Understanding

- Play games with me where I have to follow instructions like "roll the ball" or "throw the ball".
- Let me help you with unpacking the shopping by telling me to find different things like "find the apples" or "find the crackers".

Speaking

- Show me and give me choices about what I can have to eat, like "yoghurt or banana".

Physical Development

Moving and handling

- Give me a little bag to carry something in when we go shopping.
- Give me a bucket to put interesting things in when I'm digging in the mud.
- Give me rolling pins and cutters to see what I can do with them when I'm playing with the dough.

Health and self care

- Let me wash my hands and face by myself.
- Let me try to put my boots on by myself.



Mathematics

Numbers

- Count with me as you put my clothes on, like "one sock, two socks" or "one button, two buttons, three buttons, four buttons".

Shape, space and measure

- Let me explore what "full" and "empty" looks like when I'm playing in the bath with plastic bottles.
- Let me play with puzzles that I have to try and put the piece into the matching space.

Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring and using media and materials

- Give me a big piece of paper or shower curtain on the floor to see what marks I can make with a paint brush, my hands or my feet.
- Give me ribbons or scarves to hold as I dance to music.

Being imaginative

- Give me an old telephone so that I can pretend to phone you.
- Give me a bowl of soapy water so that I can wash my baby doll.

Understanding the World

People and communities

- Share stories with me that are about children and families.
- Let me tell you about photos about grown ups who are special to me, my brothers and sisters, my friends and my pets.

The world

- Let me splash in puddles when I'm wearing my boots.
- Let me climb up a little hill and run down it.
- Let me mix water and mud together to make "mud pies".

Technology

- Let me use the camera to take pictures of things.



Literacy

Reading

- Let me explore different books – board, paper, small, big.
- Let me point to things or tell you things as you share my favourite stories with me.
- Show me that you like books.

Writing

- Let me make lots of marks using chunky pencils / crayons / chalks.

Resources to help:

www.booktrust.org.uk/resources
www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk
www.literacytrust.org.uk/early_years
www.readangelon.org.uk

22 - 36 months: How can you help me with my learning?

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making relationships

- Make dens from sheets and blankets that I can play in with you or my friends.

Self confidence and self awareness

- Make a box with different things in it, like glue and different types of paper, that I can choose from when I'm making a picture or model from boxes.

Managing feelings and behaviour

- Talk to me about the order I need to do things in, like brushing my teeth or getting ready for bed.

Communication and Language

Listening and attention

- Use sock puppets or toy people or animals when you're sharing one of my favourite stories or songs with me.

Understanding

- When we're making a sandwich together tell me what you are doing so I know what to do.

Speaking

- When we're playing with things, use new words to describe what I'm doing with them or to tell me what they are called.



Physical Development

Moving and handling

- Play ball games with me.
- Give me lots of ribbons that I can wave around me.
- Let me try and dress my teddy or doll with different types of clothes, like coats, jumpers and dresses, and different types of fastenings, like buttons, Velcro and zips.

Health and self care

- Let me help get lunch ready by cutting the cheese or bananas.

Mathematics

Numbers

- Make skittles with me from plastic bottles. Play games where we have to keep a score of how many skittles we've knocked down.
- Sing counting rhymes with me like "Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer" or "1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive".

Shape, space and measure

- Let me sort the clothes so that I put all the ones with the same pattern or colour like red, spotty or stripy, together.

Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring and using media and materials

- Let me explore the different sounds I can make with everyday things like spoons, pots and plastic bowls.
- Make a box with paper, glue, scissors and crayons that I can use to make pictures.

Being imaginative

- Let me dress up using grown ups' clothes, pieces of fabric, hats and bags so that I can pretend to be somebody else.

Understanding the World

People and communities

- Let me taste food from different countries and cultures.

The world

- Let me explore bubbles, windmills or streamers when it's windy.
- Let me use toy cars, buses or trains to make up stories about going to the supermarket, going on holiday or going to nursery.

Technology

- Let me press buttons on things like torches or remote control cars to see what happens.

Literacy

Reading

- I like to turn the pages in books – let me.
- Let me use my toys to help me tell you stories that we've shared.
- When you read me stories that I know really well, stop at different parts and let me tell you the missing word.
- Let me explore lots of books from the library or nursery with my friends and on my own.

Writing

- Draw and paint with me and tell me what you're doing.
- When you're writing lists or filling in forms let me have my own paper or forms so that I can make my own marks.

Resources to help:

www.booktrust.org.uk/resources, www.literacytrust.org.uk/early_years
www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk, www.readangelon.org.uk



30 - 50 months: How can you help me with my learning?

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making relationships

- Let me build things with my friends using big cardboard boxes and pieces of fabric.

Self confidence and self awareness

- Let me help you match the socks together.

Managing feelings and behaviour

- Let me dress up and pretend to be a nurse, doctor, firefighter, mum or dad.
- Explain to me why I cannot do things like run around the supermarket.

Communication and Language

Listening and attention

- Play listening games with me like "Simon Says..." "Where I have to copy an action or "Ready, Steady, Go" where I have to wait to push the ball or car.
- Make up silly sentences with me where each word begins with the same sound as at the start of my name.

Speaking

- Talk to me about things we did or places that we went to yesterday.

Understanding

- When I'm helping you to make the lunch, ask me questions like "What do I need to cut the apple?" or "What do I need to pour your milk / water into?" so that I can find you the thing we need.
- When we're tidying up give me simple instructions like "Put your shoes in the basket" or "Put the remote control on the sofa."



Physical Development

Moving and handling

- Let me practice using children's scissors to cut dough, cooked spaghetti or paper.
- Make an obstacle course in the park or garden where I have to run around benches or chairs, crawl under a blanket and crawl through a cardboard box.

Health and self care

- Make sure I brush my teeth twice a day.

40 - 60 months: How can you help me with my learning?

Communication and Language

Listening and attention

- Play a treasure hunt game with me where I have to listen to your instructions to help me find the next "clue".

Understanding

- When we're sharing a story together ask me why I think something has happened or what might happen next.

Speaking

- When we're sharing a story ask me how I think the story might end.
- Make up silly rhymes with me where we use words that begin with the same letter or the words all rhyme, like "cat", "bat" and "hat".
- Play "I spy" with me.
- Use different voices, like loud voices or squeaky voices, when we're telling stories.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making relationships

- When we go to the park ask me what we can do there or what things we see growing there.

Self confidence and self awareness

- Let me tell you how you can help me when I'm making something.

Managing feelings and behaviour

- Talk to me about how to keep safe when we're going to cross the road at a pelican crossing or zebra crossing.

Physical Development

Moving and handling

- Play games with me like football, basketball or throwing balls into bowls or boxes.
- Get me to thread plastic bottle tops with holes onto string or shoe laces.

Health and self care

- Make fruit kebabs or vegetable faces to help me try different types of fruit and vegetables.
- Dance with me when we hear our favourite songs.



Mathematics

Numbers

- Plan a picnic with me and let me decide how many sandwiches and bananas we will need.
- Make a number line with me using birthday cards.
- Play number snap or bingo with numbers that we've cut out of a magazine.
- Sing number songs where I have to count backwards like "Five Little Ducks" or "Ten Fat Sausages".

Shape, space and measure

- Let me sort out the pairs of shoes so that they go from small to big.
- Let me make patterns with buttons or lids, like "big, small, big".
- Let me give you instructions for an obstacle course, like "Go under the blanket", "Go through the tunnel" and "Go behind the chair".

Literacy

Reading

- Do not forget I enjoy being read to and sharing books with you.
- Let me read to you and ask interesting questions about the story
- Make a puppet theatre with me from a cardboard box and puppets, cut out of comics or pictures from websites, to help me make up new stories.
- Make and play games with me that use letters or words.
- Play games where you give me an instruction like "Can you jump?" or "Can you hop?" and I have to put the sounds of the word together and show you the action.
- I have favorite books – ask me about them.

Writing

- Make a pretend shop with me and let me write the price lists.
- Make number plates with me for my cars.
- Make a photo book of our family or when we went to the park and let me write my own words in it.

Understanding the World

People and communities

- Let me help you find the things we need in the shop.
- Have a pretend party for my dolls and teddies with me.

The world

- Make a map with me to show how we get from our house to nursery or the library.
- Draw a road for my cars or a track for my trains with me on a big piece of paper.
- Let me help you water the plants.
- Make coloured ice cubes with me and let me use them to paint with.

Technology

- Let me listen to a story or a song on our radio, CD player, app or website.
- Let me take photos of my favourite toys, special grown ups or when we walk to the bus stop.



Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring and using media and materials

- Pretend stories with me like "Going on a Bear Hunt" or "Walking Through the Jungle".
- Sing and dance with me to my favourite songs.
- Give me string, scissors, sticky tape, glue and boxes to make a model, like a castle or a car.

Being imaginative

- Let me tell you a story about what I'm doing when I'm dressing up and pretending to be a pirate or a doctor.

Resources to help:

www.booktrust.org.uk/resources
www.thecomunicationtrust.org.uk
www.literacytrust.org.uk/early_years
www.readangeton.org.uk