



As school is closed, I am keen to give you some ideas to help your child continue the fantastic progress they have been making with their learning at school. Many of these ideas involve you taking part as interaction is a key part of learning, turn taking, following instructions and speaking and listening are key learning skills. Your child will still need some independent play time and you may well either be working from home or have other things to do, so I do not advocate trying to do these types of activities every hour of the day. However, it will really help your child if you could try and ensure that they do some form of mark making (writing and drawing), reading, number work and some games each day. I would love to hear about what you have been up to and have many more ideas that I could share with you, so please email me, keep in touch! If you can take a photo of anything you have made/ drawn etc. you can email them to me too. I can imagine that this could end up being a stressful time for many of you. My advice would be that the best plan is to keep/ make a routine, make sure activities are fun and let me know if I can help and I will do my best. I will also be sending home a weekly newsletter with additional ideas.

In the front cover of your child's Reading Record you will find a log in for a programme called "Purple Mash," This is a fantastic app and has drawing, phonics, maths games and much more.

Whilst this is a great resource, please try and spend some time engaging with your child in other activities.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

Please reassure your child that everything is ok, you may be concerned, but your child doesn't need to know that. As inconvenient as this closure may be for you, please bear in mind that, for your child, it may be quite unsettling especially if it is over the Easter break, for an extended period of time. Distraction is always the best course to follow if your child is becoming frustrated with something so change activity, go out for a walk etc.

Communication and Language

Play "Kim's Game," put a variety of everyday objects or toys on a tray, cover with a cloth and take turns removing one object, the other person guessing what has been removed when the tray is uncovered.

Play "Word Ping-Pong," choose a theme, such as animals or food then take turns saying the name of one of the objects- see how many you can think of.

Physical Development

Hygiene- there is a great baby shark handwashing song online! Good handwashing practice will be a life skill that your child will benefit from for their whole life.

Please try and keep active, I know from wet play days at school that children need to be physically active! Whilst a popcorn and movie time may be needed, try to have some physical activity each day. The situation is changing daily, so please follow any current guidance, however if you can, go out for a walk, bike ride or see how many laps of the garden or park they can run in a minute. Have a "kitchen Disco," pop on some tunes and dance away- who can bust the best moves? See how many star jumps, hops etc. can they do in a minute? This is also a good distraction trick if your child is frustrated or you want them to move them on to something else.

Literacy

Keep reading- reading books, story books, information books and there are also books online that have the text on them including ones on "Purple Mash."

Write letter sounds or words on pieces of paper, ask your child to find them and tell you what they found. The phase three sounds with an asterisk on them have not been taught yet. PC/ Tablet games such as phonic pop and the tricky word song are some of my favourite phonic games and are free to all. Watch out for anything that doesn't use the pure sounds that your child has been taught.

Write the alphabet down the side of a piece of paper and see if you can think of something beginning with each sound. Keep a diary of what you have been up to over the school closure, drawing a picture and writing a label or caption of one thing they have done each day.

Make a book all about your child's favourite toys to play with. This could be an information book about animals, princesses, cars, whatever they like. You could then make a story book about their favourite toy- you can share the writing if you like- they tell you the story and you write, you can type but children need to see you writing too. Choose a favourite story book, share it and then draw and cut out some puppets or masks to act out the story.

Mathematics

Ask your child to help count out food for dinner, find pairs of matching socks- there is so much Maths to be found in everyday activities!

Now is the time to make the most of your child's Maths Bag! Practise writing numerals on the white board. Order the number cards- then take turns closing your eyes whilst the other person takes a card away- which number did they remove? Recently we played "Bigger or Smaller" in class-is anyone old enough to remember "Play Your Cards Right?" Shuffle the cards and one person picks a card and the other must guess whether the next card is bigger or smaller.

Weight- make some cakes, bread, biscuits or whatever you fancy.

Shape- go on a 2D or 3D shape hunt throughout the house

Money- set up a shop, for example a toy or food shop. Together make price labels for the items in the shop then take turns being the customer and shopkeeper. The children need to know the language involved in money; they don't have to work out change or identify coins.

Capacity- how about filling a bucket with soapy water and asking your child to help wash the car! Is the bucket "full," half full" or "empty?"

Expressive Arts and Design

Simple playdough recipe

You will need

- 8 tbsp plain flour, 2 tbsp table salt, 60ml warm water, food colouring- optional, 1 tbsp vegetable oil

Method

1. Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. In a separate bowl mix together the water, a few drops of food colouring and the oil.
2. Pour the coloured water into the flour mix and bring together with a spoon.
3. Dust a work surface with a little flour and turn out the dough. Knead together for a few minutes to form a smooth, pliable dough.

With the playdough, which is fun to make, you can make aliens, shapes, pretend cakes that you can decorate with anything you have to hand. You can roll worms and snakes then wrap them up into snails.

There are many playdough recipes available online- the cooked version of play dough lasts for weeks!

Home-made glue-Mix one-part flour with one part of water (e.g. 1 cup flour and 1 cup water, or 1/2 cup flour and 1/2 cup water) until you get a thick glue-like consistency. Add a bit more water if it's too thick. Mix well with a spoon to get rid of all the lumps- you can then make a papier mache balloon- layers of glue and newspaper on a blown-up balloon- this can be quite messy, but lots of fun! When dry you can pop the balloon and have a dinosaur/ duckling egg or whatever you want. You can decorate with anything or pens if you have them at home.

Be creative with clothes-raid the dressing up box, or if you haven't got one, use your everyday clothes, it's amazing how much fun you can have mixing up clothes. Who can look the silliest! Who will put on a woolly hat, swimming costume and wellies!

Understanding the World

See "Purple Mash," for computing ideas.

Keep in touch with family through letters, postcards or facetime.

As I have already mentioned I have many more ideas, please ask. I know that all of you will also have some or will find some brilliant ideas worth sharing too. Please email me then we can share ideas and help each other out.

I will respond between 8.30-4.30 weekdays during term time, checking my emails throughout the day.

I cannot thank you enough for your support over this challenging time.

Miss Mel Jackson

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On a daily basis websites are advertising free access for parents- phonics play and twinkl are great.

Joe the "body coach" is doing a P.E session at 9am Monday-Friday on Youtube.

Cosmic yoga, yoga for children aged 3+ is on Youtube.

Go Noodle- dancing and mindfulness-see their website or Youtube.

Cbeebies Alphablocks and Numberblocks- Cbeebies website.

ICT games has Maths and Literacy games

I will keep adding to this list and advising on particular sections to look at over the coming weeks.

Your child has borrowed a book from the classroom bookcorner and has a couple of extra reading books, this is not enough, but I do hope it helps.

They have also bought home a new writing book for you to use at home.