

Dear Parents and Carers,

Enclosed is a list of just some ideas that you could use with your child if Nursery is closed due to the need to delay the spread of the Corona virus, Covid-19. The ideas are fun at any time and many of them are also suitable for older/younger children too. I have included a few websites which may be useful. Please remember that children do need time to play independently too and it is also good to let your child choose an activity that they would like to do - we call this "child-initiated play". Try to get outside in the garden as much as possible, many of the activities on this list can be done outside as well as inside.

Please don't feel that you MUST do any of the activities listed below –just enjoy your time together.

So, in no particular order, here is the list:

- Choose a favourite book to share, your child can turn the pages, join in with parts of the story and talk about the characters, and their favourite parts of the story. Rhyming stories are really useful too.
- Have an indoor/outdoor teddy bears' picnic.
- Cooking – children love to be involved and all the stirring, mixing, kneading etc is great to develop the strength in their hands, preparing them for writing.
- Turn the music up and have a disco.
- Home cinema – watch a film together, talk to your child as you watch the film, explaining what is happening and asking what might happen next.
- Singing nursery rhymes with your child – use YouTube if you need any reminders!
- Children often love to play in an empty cardboard box if you have any – let their imagination run riot and fly to the moon or sail to the North Pole!
- Junk modelling with empty packets/ boxes/paper + sticky tape is great fun
- Practising with scissors, cutting out shapes or along a curved line – please supervise this one closely!
- Try playing catch – outside with a large/small ball or beanbag or inside with a balloon or a pair of socks!
- Play simple board games/ card games – children enjoy taking part and it is a great way to learn about taking turns and sharing.

- Help your child to make a den under the table with blankets and cushions etc
- Put some music on and ask your child to show you our “Wake and Shake” moves.
- Try some calm music and ask your child to show you how we do Peer Massage at Nursery.
- Try making a play shop with real food or objects from around the house as well as some real coins in a purse and a few paper bags.
- Have a number hunt around the house, perhaps you could let your child take photos of the numbers you find, with a camera or your phone.
- Make a list with your child of all the different items in your house that use electricity – talk about safety too
- Playdough is another great activity to develop children’s finger strength and great for the imagination too! If you haven’t got any, there are lots of recipes on the internet or you can try this one: 3 cups of flour, 3 cups of water, 1 cup of salt, 5 teaspoons of cream of tartar, 3 tablespoons of oil – mix all ingredients together in a large pan, cook on a medium heat. Keep stirring until the mixture starts to clump together. When cool enough, knead the dough until it forms a ball. Keep in an airtight container when not in use.
- Drawing with pencils, felt tips, chalk, wax crayons etc - you could make your child a little book from folded paper and write down what they tell you about their picture.
- Dressing up games are fun – you can join in too!
- Memory Game – put 4 or 5 small objects on a tray, look carefully at the objects, cover with a tea towel and remove one of the objects. Can your child name the missing object? Swap over and take turns. Add more objects for a greater level of challenge.
- Miming games are fun too – guess the action e.g. cooking, playing football, washing hands etc.
- Sorting through a wardrobe or drawers for clothes that are too small – donate to charity or bring into school when you can please.
- You could also sort through the toy box with your child – often rediscovering an old favourite toy can be very exciting!

- If your child can't already, please take time to help your child to practise putting on and taking off shoes and socks + putting on own coat + learning to do up the zip (easier to do this when not wearing the coat to begin with!)
- Try making a little alphabet book of pictures for each letter of the alphabet cut out from old magazines or comics, or drawn by you or your child.
- Make a play zoo/farm with a selection of soft toy animals you may have at home. Pretend to feed and groom the animals with an old hairbrush or toothbrush. Your child could make admission tickets to pretend to sell.
- Involve your child in helping with jobs around the house, it may take longer but your child will love to feel responsible – e.g. having a duster, helping to put washing in the machine, sorting and folding laundry, making sandwiches for lunch etc
- Helping with gardening can be great fun, children love to dig and sweep etc!
- If you have any seeds at home then planting seeds, watering them and watching them grow is fascinating for young children
- You could look on the Internet with your child to find out about different sorts of pets – our topic for this half term
- Talk to a family member on Facetime, Skype or a WhatsApp video call – helping elderly family members feel less isolated and a great way for young children to communicate and recall what they have been doing.
- Make puppets by cutting out a picture from a comic and sticking it onto a paper straw – make up simple plays to perform.
- Easter paper chains are another good way to practise cutting and sticking skills.
- Lego/Duplo are great for developing finger strength as well as using imagination when constructing.
- Watching for birds in the garden and counting how many they see. Try to name/identify some of the birds.
- Looking out of the window and counting cars/people passing by
- Running/chasing games in the garden
- Fill the washing up bowl with water and a few empty bottles/ yoghurt pots etc and your child will love filling and emptying etc. Please supervise water play carefully.
- Make musical instruments e.g. shakers and drums with junk materials

The list really is endless, but the main thing is to have fun!

Some of the websites worth looking at are:

<https://small-talk.org.uk/> Lots of ideas about talking with your child and sharing stories

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3LPrhI0v-w> Great “5 Minute Move” Kids Workouts by Joe Wicks, The Body Coach. Great fun to join in and exercise with your child! There are lots of these workouts to enjoy!

<http://wordsforlife.literacytrust.org.uk/> Great activity and story book ideas for children, including downloadable activity sheets from The National Literacy Trust.

[www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies) So many games, songs and stories to enjoy with your child

I am sure that your child already has many favourite websites and games. Please remember to supervise your child when they are online and to have a limit on screen time – try setting a timer on your ‘phone which tells your child that it is time for a screen break or to have some exercise.

Best wishes from Mrs Ward and the Nursery team.