

Home learning ideas

Services for Young Children - Issue 6

This is a guide to help and support you as parents and carers with providing your children with fun experiences in the home and garden.

We will aim to refresh this on a regular basis to help you keep young minds busy and bodies active.

While we will do our best to verify all the websites which we share, information is changing rapidly so please be aware that it is only accurate at the time of writing.

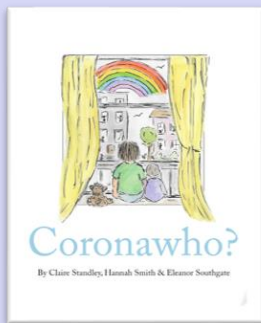


Some useful resources from the internet to help you.

Need to explain COVID-19 to a child?

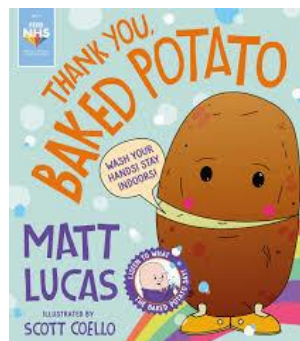
This beautiful story will help.

www.elsiestayshome.com/



Something funny.

[Matt Lucas Incredible Baked Potato.](#)



[Talk with trust](#) Home Learning video to help you talk to your child.



Choosing an app for your child – the FEED test. There are lots of apps that say they are 'educational', but you will want to reassure yourself that is the case and that they are right for your child. The FEED check may help.

Fun – Will your child enjoy the app? Will it keep their attention?

Educational – Is there a clear educational aim? Do you know what your child will learn? Will it keep them learning and allow them to progress?

Engaging – Will it help your child if they get stuck? Will it give them feedback and let them know when they've got challenges right?

Design – Is it attractive and easy to use? Is it inclusive and does it avoid gender and racial stereotypes? Can an adult change the settings? Is it safe, with links to the internet and adverts protected behind a parental gate?

For more information take a look at the [Hungry Little Minds](#) website.



Play ideas for sitters

NSPCC Look, say, sing, play



[Look, say, sing play](#)

How to respond to tantrums

If you are feeling at the end of your tether, take 5 and follow these simple steps:

- Stop.
- Breathe.
- React calmly.

For more information click on the **NSPCC** link [here](#)

Nursery Rhymes

Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall,
All the king's horses and all the king's men,

Could not put Humpty together again.



Bring the rhyme to life, have a go at building a wall for Humpty Dumpty using whatever you can find; maybe small empty boxes that can be pushed down, or stacking blocks. Sit teddy on the top so he falls.

Link to [Nursery rhymes with Makaton signing.](#)



Drippy bubbles

Have fun exploring water. Put some dark coloured paper or newspaper on a low table that your child can stand supported at. Provide some wet sponge cloths cut into small squares to fit the size of your child's hand and encourage them to squeeze, splash and smear the water on the paper and talk about what happens. You could also look out of the window and watch as the rain drops trickle down the glass.

Peek-a-boo teddy

Put a teddy in an unexpected place in the room. Ask your child, 'Where has teddy gone?' Encourage your child to look and point when they see the teddy hiding in the room. Repeat.



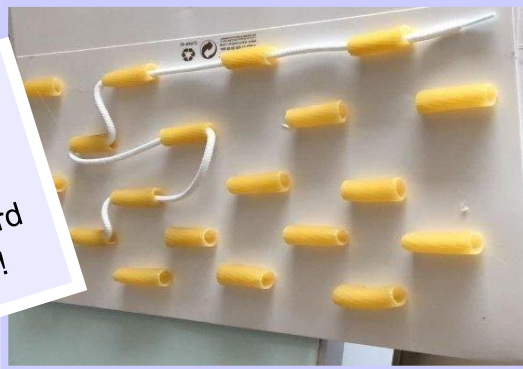
Use some large cardboard boxes to create cosy dens or tunnels for your child to move through and interact with. Maybe decorate with ribbons, or tights to crawl through. Other materials can be stuck to the outside to provide texture or interest to the surface of the cardboard. **Always supervise your child during this activity!**

Play ideas for early walkers

Use some pasta tubes and stick them to the back of box. You can either stick them in lines, or in a pattern or picture. Encourage your child to thread a piece of string or an old shoelace through the pasta.

You can make this trickier by putting the pasta at different angles or challenge the children to make their own patterns.

Make it easier by using cardboard tubes!



Growing pictures

All you need is kitchen roll, washable felt tip pens (water soluble) and water.

Draw on the kitchen paper and carefully lay it in a bowl of water. Watch the colours spread and grow!

Let them dry in the sun and describe the colours you see to your child.



Water shapes

Place some simple objects on the ground then spray water on them. Remove the shapes and see the patterns on the ground. See if you can draw shapes with the spray.



Draw around different objects to make shapes and play a matching game. Try to look for as many different shapes as you can!

Monster Tunnel

Using a cardboard box, cut out tunnel shaped holes and decorate to look like monsters.

Number each monster. Roll a ball into the monster's mouth and earn 'monster points.' You could challenge your child by keeping a score of your points on a score sheet or tallying up the points.



Play ideas for walkers and explorers

Make a tape measure and use it to see if you can find something really long, and compare its size to something shorter? Can you find something the same size as yourself?



Make Pizza Toast

Ingredients

Pizza sauce (mix ketchup and tomato puree)

Sliced Bread

Mozzarella (grated)

Toppings

Salami/ham/pineapple/sweetcorn/oregano



Maths - Cut the toast in triangles, count the corners, and compare them to a square shape. How many different shapes can you make the toast into?

This is something the children can do themselves, and take ownership of, as suggested in the video clip on the first page of this booklet.

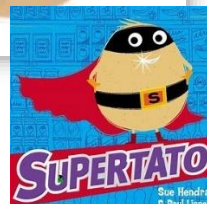
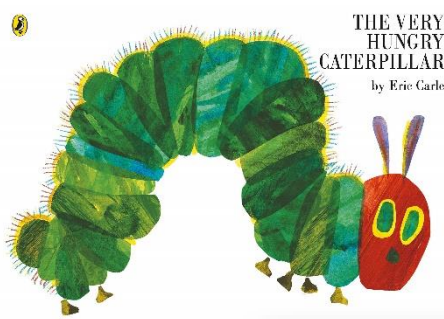
Make it easier:
Big/small/same
Counting 1, 2, 3

Foil magic

Use aluminium foil to gently press down on different surfaces and gently rub until the pattern emerges. Talk about the patterns that can be made. Using a blunt pencil, you can draw a picture. If you do not have foil use a food dish, or jam tart case.



Read & eat



See if you can find all the foods the caterpillar ate. If you cannot make your own version of the story...find some alternative foods for the caterpillar to eat and write your own family story. You could even change the characters for different insects and lifecycles.

You could try other stories.

Can you make eyes on the character of Supertato. Which food would you use?

Play ideas for walkers and explorers

Nature dominoes

While you are out on a walk see if you can collect natural objects to make a set of natural dominoes. Use the card from an old cereal box cut into rectangles. Children can add their choice of found objects, placing one object on either side of a middle line. Secure the objects with tape and let the children create a domino line where the objects are matched in sequence.

Alternatively make insect wings or a cape using an old box and tie it on your back, stick on items that you find as you walk.



Plop buckets. Place a jam jar lid in the bottom of a bucket and fill it with water. Children will enjoy dropping smaller objects or pebbles to see if they can land on the lid. Count how many have landed on the target. Some children may like to count in 2s, 5s etc. Make a target for the bottom and see who can score the highest score.



<p>Cut the bottom of the water bottle off. Next slide the sock over the bottom of the bottle. Use colorful duct tape or a rubber band to secure.</p> 	<p>Add some color to the bubble snakes with food coloring. Drop the food coloring onto the sock covered end. Messy but FUN!</p> 
<p>Pour some dish soap into a shallow container with a little bit of water and gently mix. Dip the sock covered bubble blower in and blow!</p> 	

If your child does not like the feeling of wet hands, try [bubble snakes](#) from old socks.

Click on the link below for the bubble mix recipes.

[How to make bubble mix and wands](#)

Please make sure the children don't drink the bubble mix and the washing up liquid doesn't cause skin or eye irritation.

Have a go at making a giant bubble wand using some string and sticks - [how to make a giant bubble wand](#).

