

Hello to all of our Nursery children and parents! We hope you are all safe and well and enjoying your time together, and not missing your Nursery friends too much. It has been lovely to see what some of you have been up to, thank you for sending in your photos and observations to our online Learning Journal, 2Build a Profile. Apologies to those who have experienced some problems with this, but hopefully these have now been resolved. It would be lovely to see something from all of the children as the staff are missing them all very much. Please see the information at the bottom of the page for how to do this. I hope you have all had the chance to complete at least some of the suggested activities for March, many of these can be continued for the next few weeks too. I have suggested some further activities below for those who would like to try something new, but there will be many learning opportunities that occur every day for you and your child which I have not mentioned, please feel free to document and send anything that you have enjoyed together or that you think has been a moment of significant learning for your child. Above all, keep talking, keep reading, keep counting, keep exercising, keep playing and keep having fun! 🤗

Week 1

Physical Development

You will need: pegs, a plate, a timer or a song.

This is a great fine motor workout to help strengthen fingers and hands for writing and improve co-ordination. The game is to see how many pegs your child can peg onto the rim of the plate in a set amount of time (30 seconds), or in the time it takes you both to sing a nursery rhyme. Take turns and see who can peg on the most! This also incorporates counting and saying who has more or fewer. For extra challenge, use paper clips and circles of card or paper instead of pegs and plates.

And don't forget to keep your whole body fit and active with 'Jump Start Jonny', 'Cosmic Kids' or your own favourite home workout, and get outside for your daily exercise and fresh air.

Maths

You will need: lots of socks and a bit of time.

This activity can be adapted for any level. The aim is for your child to pair up socks by looking at the patterns, colours and sizes. Ask them to describe the socks using the language of size (bigger, smaller, longer, shorter, medium sized). Ask them to sort the socks in different ways – encourage your child to suggest how e.g. by colour, size, pattern, who they belong to, old, new. Then count each group of socks and find out which has most, fewest, more, less. As they pair them, discuss what a pair is, find other objects that come in pairs, and even introduce or practise counting in twos if your child is confident and interested.

Literacy

You will need: A rhyming story book

Read a rhyming story with your child. Enjoy the story, then read it again and ask them to spot any rhyming words. If they can hear the rhyming words, ask them to think of other words that rhyme and try replacing the word in the story with their rhyming word, or suggest other rhyming words if they need some support. Ask them if it makes sense, or if it is nonsense. Try to replace words in nursery rhymes with nonsense rhymes and enjoy having fun with words. Also play some 'Fred Talk' games throughout each day, find ideas on this link

https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/media/uploads/downloads/fred_talk_games.pdf

Understanding the World

You will need: access to a garden or outside area on a walk, a magnifying glass if you have one, a camera, the internet.

Read a mini-beast story then do some research on the internet about mini-beasts. Find out which ones might live in your garden or local area and look at some pictures. Compare colours, sizes, number of legs, what their role in the environment is, etc. Go on a mini beast hunt in your garden or when out walking and see how many you can find. Notice where they like to live (their habitat) and take a photo. Keep a tally of how many you find (good for counting and recording). Encourage your child to care for living creatures, always returning them to where you found them and putting things back the way they were.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (including Rights Respecting and R.E.)

April's Article of the Month is Article 24: The right to good quality health care, to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so they can stay healthy.

Talk to your child about how they are lucky to have these things but children in other parts of the world do not. Together, think about ways to stay healthy, especially in these times. Set up a prayer focus, light a candle and spend a short time in quiet reflection to appreciate all we have. Say a prayer of thanks for our families and friends and ask God to keep them safe.

Expressive Arts and Design

You will need: either paper, coloured pens, pencils, crayons or paints, LEGO or other construction resources, or recycled materials, glue and sticky tape.

Ask your child to paint, draw or create a model of one of the mini-beasts that you have researched and identified in your local area. Give your child a choice of medium and encourage them to look at the photographs you took. Encourage them to observe the details and think about how they can represent them on their picture or model, and how they can make their creation look more like the real mini-beast. They could even create or draw/paint the creature's habitat e.g. a web, a dark place, under a rock or branch, amongst leaves etc.

Week 2

Physical Development

You will need: a shallow tray or box, some shaving foam, sand, glitter, or other non-toxic powder, a child's paintbrush.

This activity is aimed at developing mark making control and practising the shapes necessary for correct letter formation. Put a thin layer of the sand or similar onto the tray, enough to cover the bottom. Encourage your child to use the paint brush to mark make, starting with shapes and patterns including anti-clockwise circles, retracing vertical lines, diagonal lines, crosses, triangles and squares or rectangles. Then encourage them to copy the letters in their name, and name the sounds as they do so. Have a try using a pencil and paper if your child is ready. They could also copy numerals, or just create their own art work.

Maths

You will need: a variety of light and heavy objects, some scales or a homemade balance scale (could be a coat hanger on a door handle with a container attached to either side).

This activity can be adapted for any level. The aim is for your child to learn to compare the weights of objects and use the vocabulary of weight (light, lighter, lightest, heavy, heavier, heaviest). To begin with, ask your child to hold some of the objects in their hands and say whether they think they are light or heavy. Encourage them to explain their thinking. Then use the scales to weigh the rest of the objects against one chosen item, and ask your child to compare them using the language above.

See if they can order them from heaviest to lightest and compare the results to their initial thoughts.

Literacy

You will need: A selection of household items that start with the sounds m, a, s, d, t or that can be 'Fred Talked' (with 3 or 4 sounds in their name).

Play 'I Went To The Shop ...' using objects that start with the sounds m, a, s, d, t. Encourage your child to hear and say the sound at the start of the word e.g. mmmilk, or a-a-apple ('m' and 's' are stretchy sounds, 'a', 'd', 't' are bouncy sounds). Then ask your child to sort the rest of the objects by the sound they start with. If your child can hear the initial sound in the words, then encourage them to 'Fred Talk' the name of the object (e.g. t-i-n, tin). You may need to model this for them and ask them to repeat it back to you. You can continue this activity throughout the day – the more practise the better!

Understanding the World

You will need: a story book about 'life cycles' (e.g. an egg hatching into a chick, a caterpillar turning into a butterfly, a tadpole turning into a frog)

Read the story you have about a life cycle and talk with your child about the cycle e.g. how an egg hatches into a chick, which grows into a hen, which lays an egg). Look at some other books or information from the internet about life cycles of butterflies and frogs. Discuss how they change as they grow and compare to how your child has grown. Have they changed shape or form since they were a baby or have they just grown bigger? What else has changed about them?

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (including Rights Respecting and R.E.)

R.E. – Read the Easter story with your child and talk about 'Good News'. Discuss how we celebrate good news, ask your child if they can think of a time when they heard good news, prompt them if necessary. Ask them to remember how it made them feel. Sing 'If You're Happy and You Know It.'

Our 'Theme of the Week' is to show care for others. Encourage your child to think about family members or friends who may still be self-isolating. Ask them to think of a way to show love and care for them, even at a distance.

Expressive Arts and Design

You will need: coloured paints or ingredients for home-made paint (1 cup of flour, 1 cup of salt, 1 cup of water, food colouring), paper.

Create a painting of a butterfly with a symmetrical pattern on its wings, using the technique of painting a pattern on half of a folded butterfly shape, then folding it over. The aim is for your child to experiment with colour mixing with the paints and learn how to mix new colours, learn a new painting technique and learn about symmetry. For more challenge, encourage your child to draw the shape of one half of the butterfly on a folded piece of paper, then practise their scissor skills by cutting it out themselves. Remember it is the learning process rather than the end product that is important!

Communication & Language - This will be covered throughout all of the other activities. As well as talking to your child about everything you do, notice words in stories that your child might not know and explain the meaning, then try and make it your 'word of the day'.

You can keep a record of your child's learning by uploading any photos or experiences that you share during this time to your child's electronic learning journal. This can be done by emailing them to inbox@2buildaprofile.com from your email address registered to receive the electronic Learning Journals. You will need to send the photograph or video as an attachment to the email, and include a short summary of your child's achievement.