



Newsletter.

First week of home learning,

Counting on fingers.

Recent research has shown the importance of counting on fingers



for children. Children need a concrete representation of numbers and fingers provide that for them, Ask your child to represent any number you are talking about using fingers. For example, ask them to give you 2 apples and use your fingers to represent the number you need. When you are setting the table, talk to your child about how many people are there for dinner, ask them to show you with their fingers. Sing number rhymes together



Counting to 5.

It's more important to help your child become confident at understanding all the properties of a number than to count up to large numbers, Encourage your child to point to objects as they count and do this in front of them when you count. Its more important to be able to count a small group of objects accurately then to 'rote count' up to higher numbers. Talk to children about what numbers make up 5, for example use real objects like oranges, pebbles, sticks outside. You can use old egg boxes to sort items - make it into a fun game.

Make patterns with a small number of objects (up to 5) and talk about the different ways you can make 5 (for example 1 and 4, 3 and 2).

Treasure Hunt at home. You could do a number treasure hunt at home - hide some toys or healthy treats (apples or tangerines) around the house or garden then send your child to find them. Count the things they find together.

Putting away the Shopping.



Get the children to help you sort out a cupboard or put away your shopping - show them how tins are different to boxes - tins roll - boxes don't - they have different properties. You will be helping your child to learn about 3D shapes.

Setting table



Get your child to help setting the table. Ask them how many people there are for dinner and then get them to put out plates and knives and forks. Play a 'sabotage' game - for example give them 4 plates and 5 knives and forks.

See if they spot the mistake!

Sorting Washing



Ask your child to help you sort the washing - this is a really good maths activity. You can match up socks, sort clothes into big and small, look at the patterns on clothes.

Surveys

Name: _____

Favourite Fruit Survey 

Use tally marks to record your friends' favourite fruits.

 apple	
 banana	
 peach	
 orange	
 strawberries	
 pear	
 grapes	
other	

Which fruit is the **most** popular?
Which fruit is the **least** popular?
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Help your child do a survey - they have been really enjoying doing these in nursery. They can ask people in the house about their favourite fruit, hair colour, favourite book - there are lots of options. Encourage them to ask everyone then look at it afterwards together to discuss the results "Which is the family's favourite fruit and how do we know etc.."

Have a family picnic.

Lay out a blanket in the living room or garden. Can children make sure everyone has a plate, fork, spoon, cup? How many do we need all together? Give your child a selection of food and ask them to share it fairly between everyone? If there is one left over what could we do?



Play a family board game

___ Play a game together. Talk about taking turns and playing fairly. Dice games will support your child's number recognition. You could use a spinner with numerals on to help develop numeral recognition. If you don't have a spinner you could make one using an old cereal box and a split pin.

Cooking

Cooking is a brilliant maths activity. Get your child to help you make a



sandwich - this involves lots of maths

For example

Working out who in the house wants a sandwich and which kind of sandwich they want - you could use a tally/survey sheet for this.

Spreading butter on bread - you can discuss sides, corners and covering the bread to the edges.

Discussing what filling you might have and then preparing it - talking about the shapes of fruit or vegetables you might put in - cucumber is good for talking about circles.

Putting the sandwich together and cutting it involves lots of discussion about the whole, halves and quarters! This is real everyday maths which will mean much more to the children than worksheets.

How to ask Questions.



When you ask your child questions try to make them meaningful, for example if you know your child knows their colours do not keep asking them what colour something is. If they don't know their colours do some painting or colouring together and talk about the colours you are using for example "I'm going to use yellow for the sun and blue for the sky". Name colours of clothes as you help your child dress "Let's put on your green jumper today, look I have a green shirt on, we are matching". It is the same with counting, if your child is not confident at counting yet then model counting to them. Do not put them on the spot and ask them to count. Do it together or count in front of them "I need 3 onions, can you help me count them?" If your child feels under pressure

to answer something they are unsure about it will make them feel anxious, It often works better to put "I wonder..." at the start of questions for example "I wonder how many blocks you will use to build your tall tower"

Working Memory

Lots of recent research shows how important it is for children to reflect on what they have learnt in order to actually process the learning. For example if you have made a sandwich together see if they can describe what they did to someone else in the family later or show a sibling how to do the same thing.

If you have shared a story together see if they can retell the story to you later or the next day. Lots of you will be communicating with family via skype, facetime etc - see if children can talk to family members about their day and support them to describe what they have been doing.

Useful Websites to help support learning at home

<https://craftulate.com/art-with-kids/>

Homemade games like cardboard tube cars,DIY marble run etc,

Fine motor activities for children with additional needs.

Play recipes e.g. sensory play with things from home.

Art activities

www.theempowerededucatoronline.com

DIY Geo boards from wooden stumps great idea at home or school,

How to attract bugs and insects in your garden,

Growing with children -sensory plant tower

www.letsplaykidsmusic.com

Reading stories that are really familiar with adding music and instruments that you can make at home.,

Integrating simple songs and movement to storytelling.

<http://www.lovemybooks.co.uk/> - lots of ideas for fun, creative, reading activities at home.

[Family review panel](#) -good platform for families to share read together and share good ideas and experiences.

[Kid's poems and stories with Michael Rosen](#) - something for our young readers to share with their older siblings listening to his great stories and poems.

[Nick Sharrat's website](#)- list of his books - and a closer look at himself as an author, his work studio and drawing tips

[Rob Biddulph on Twitter](#)

[CBeebies storytime](#) [CBeebies radio](#) -

lovely stories to listen to

'Dukulele, Duke in space, Duke and the dinosaurs".

[Power of Pictures Authors and illustrators](#)- Great to use our tales toolkit

[The big list of children's authors doing online readalouds and activities](#)

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/home-early-years>

- Useful themes and topics :
people who help us, feelings,
- life cycles..

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen> amazon have a collection of stories you can stream in six different languages all stories are free to stream.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/2020/03/book-ideas-hub-brilliant-stay-at-home-ideas-free-resources/>

fun ideas, crafty activities, and free booky resources you can all enjoy together.

Stay safe, happy and strong and keep in touch - We miss you all!

Please post pictures of things you are doing at home on Tapestry!

Back with more ideas next week!!