



Newsletter.

May 2020



Transition to School

Many of you will know which school your child will be going to in September now - I hope you got the choice you wanted. I wanted to stress that the early years is a continuous phase - the curriculum is called the early years foundation stage curriculum. This curriculum goes right up to the end of your child's first year in primary school - when they finish their reception class. There is a really useful parents guide to the curriculum called 'What to expect, when? Guidance to your child's learning and development in the early years foundation stage. There is a link to the parents guide here and you can download the document

[What to expect, when?](#)

This goes through each area of the EYFS divided by age bands from birth to 5 and shows you what your child may be doing at this stage and how you can support your child's learning and development.

For example, these are some of the ideas for children aged 30-50 months in the area of communication and language :

Play listening games like "Simon Says" where your child has to copy an action if you say 'Simon says.. But not if you miss out 'Simon says.. Here is a [youtube clip on how to play](#) the game if you have never played it before. It's lots of fun and is helping your child learn to listen and pay attention.

[Make up silly sentences with your child](#) where each word begins with the same sound as at the start of their name for example if your child's name is Alex you might say 'Alex ate an antelope!'. You can do it with all the names in your family - the sillier the better - this will make children laugh and enjoy the activity.

A great song to sing with your child which focuses on listening and attention and plays with the phonic sounds of letters is 'Willoughby wallaby woo' - its very silly and fun - Here is a youtube video to show you how to sing it.

[Willaby Wallaby Woo Randy Marquardt](#)

Use this link below for the website 'small talk' for more ideas on supporting your child's language and development

[small talk](#)

We have been talking to the teachers who are going to be teaching your children next September and they all stress the importance of supporting them to be as independent as possible - Encourage your child to choose their clothes and get dressed themselves in the morning, and see if they can help you tidy up their toys into the right places. Help them to be independent going to the toilet. Maybe take a walk on your daily exercise past your child's future school. Talk about how exciting it's going to be, how friendly everyone will be etc

All the schools we have been talking to are aware that this has been a very strange year and that September will be very different to other years - they know your child may take longer to settle than normal and that some children may be scared to go back to school - they are all prepared for the settling process to be slower and take longer. They all want to work with you to make sure you and your child feel supported and starting school is a positive experience



Tales toolkit is a really exciting story telling program that we use in nursery to support children developing their own stories. It gives the children a structure to use to help them tell the story , It helps them think of a character, setting, problem and solution. We use real objects and toys to help the child develop a story. It's great for developing vocabulary, structuring a story and general literacy skills. The lovely people

at Tales Toolkit have developed a home learning area of their website for parents whose schools use Tales Toolkit.

Click on the link below

[how to register for Tales Toolkit](#)

The page you need will come up. Look for where it says 'New to Tales Toolkit'. Register here.' Click on this link and complete your



details using this code when it asks for your school code.

KAYROWEE7

There are lots of exciting activities on this site that you can do with your child. Please share any stories you and your child make on tapestry.

Art activities.

I have been quite impressed by the Royal academy of arts website. They have got great activities for families . I like this one where you collect natural objects to paint with - click this link for details [Painting with natural objects.](#)

Polystyrene Tray printing.

You can make prints using polystyrene trays - like the ones you might get a take away in or get under a shop bought pizza to print with. We have done this in nursery and it



can be very effective. Here is a link to how to do it [Printing with polystyrene trays](#).

Making slime

We often make slime at nursery and children love helping us and then playing with it - it's a really good activity for developing interesting vocabulary - 'slimy', 'stretchy' etc. Some of you have asked how to make slime - here is a recipe. You need to buy contact lens solution to make it which you can buy from pharmacies



[Making slime](#)

[paint spinning top!](#)

Look out for any old CD's you have and you can make a paint spinner - click on the link to see instructions



More useful websites for ideas for activities at home

[50 great home learning ideas from abc does](#)

This is a brilliant website/blog with 50 low cost home learning ideas - all clearly explained using photos etc - ideas like

[Making dandelion ink](#)

[Kims game](#)

[Making mini me's](#)

[Counting natural objects.](#)

<https://littleangeltheatre.com/schools-and-community/at-home-resources/>

If you follow Kay Rowe on twitter you will know how amazing Little Angel theatre is - they are doing videos of traditional stories, puppet shows and activities linked to the stories.

[bbc bitesize early years activities](#)

There are some great activities here - I particularly like the cbeebies radio listening games.

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

This is a brilliant site pulling together lots of ideas for activities at home for 0-5 year olds and links to other useful sites.

<https://www.eyfshome.com/support>

Please have a look at this site - it has lots of appropriate activities for 2-4's and has whole days of suggested activities based around stories and resources which are easy to find around the house for example cardboard boxes. There are wonderful videos on this site as well.

<https://www.annafreud.org/media/11245/option-3-covid-advice-parents.pdf>

This resource supports parents on how to talk to their child about covid19 and how to support them with any concerns or worries.

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

Back with more ideas soon!!

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