

Fun things to do at home

It is really important to use what you know about children's stage of development when making suggestions of activities they can do at home that are playful and fun. For children demonstrating learning and development behaviours noted in the left-hand column, here are some suggestions you can make to parents and carers of 'fun things to do at home'. This will help children consolidate their developmental stage in the prime areas of learning and support them to acquire new skills or concepts.

EYFS Prime areas of learning (40 – 60 months)		
Communication and Language	Things to do	Things you might need
Two-channelled attention; can listen and do for short span.	<p>Enjoy doing things together and talk whilst you're doing them, for example making play dough and then playing with it, preparing meals, cleaning the house, gardening, sorting and putting the washing away. Talk all the time by doing a running commentary on what you and your child are doing.</p> <p>With Easter approaching, hard boil some eggs or use pebbles and decorate them with felt pens and small items that can be stuck on such as sequins</p>	<p><u>Playdough recipe example:</u></p> <p><i>You will need:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 tablespoons of plain flour • 8 tablespoons of table salt • 60ml of warm water, any food colouring (optional) • 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil <p><i>Instructions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix the dry ingredients together • Mix the wet ingredients together • Mix the wet and dry ingredients together • Put the dough on a floury surface and knead for a few minutes <p>Eggs, pebbles, sequins, felt pens.</p>

<p>Responds to instructions involving a two-part sequence.</p>	<p>Play a 'shopping' game. Set out some items in your pretend 'shop' and ask your child to remember the items that you have requested on the shopping list. They can go to the 'shop' and put the items in their bag and bring them 'home' to you.</p> <p>If you write a list each time, you and your child can read them when they return 'home' and tick them off.</p> <p>The list can get longer and longer; how many items can they remember? For example, write '2 potatoes' first and let your child go to the 'shop'. Return and check their bag for the items and tick them off the list.</p> <p>Put the potatoes back and write a second list, for example 2 potatoes and three apples and so on. The game continues.</p>	
Physical Development	Things to do	Things you might need
<p>Handles tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control.</p>	<p>Make models from either construction sets, playdough or junk materials. Allow your child to use safe tools. Talk to your child as they work. Discuss what they're doing and make suggestions of how things might be created or adapted. Encourage your child to talk as they work, ask questions such as 'tell me about this bit', 'I wonder why you've put that there...?'</p> <p>With Easter approaching, have an egg/potato and spoon race, preferably outdoors in your garden if possible. Balance your egg/potato carefully and walk/run as fast as you can. (<i>A handy tip would be to hard boil the eggs first.</i>) You could decorate your eggs/potatoes before the race.</p>	<p>Construction sets, playdough, tools – scissors, Cellotape, string, paper clips, etc</p> <p>Junk materials: cardboard boxes of all sizes, paper, card, Cellotape, parcel tape, glue, kitchen roll tubes, yogurt pots, lids, foil/wrapping paper, wallpaper</p>
<p>Eats a healthy range of foodstuffs and understands need for variety in food.</p>	<p>Take every opportunity to cook together. Discuss what you might make for a meal. Talk about the recipe and ingredients followed by creating your own menu. Talk about how foods are put together and enjoy inviting your child to help you make a meal.</p>	<p>Food items</p>

Shows understanding of how to transport and store equipment safely.	<p>Invite your child to help tidy up. For example, put the washing up away/empty the dishwasher.</p> <p>Teach your child how to do 'jobs' safely, for example, how to carry a pair of scissors carefully, how to put a glass jug in a cupboard, how to stack plates/dishes so that they don't fall.</p>	Everyday chores at home
Personal Social and Emotional Development	Things to do	Things you might need
Can describe self in positive terms and talk about abilities.	<p>Make an 'I can...' book together. Write the title 'I can...' on the front and then on each page write something your child is able to do. You can scribe your child's words, saying each letter/word as you write, or they could write independently if they are able to. They can also have the option to draw a picture on each page of the things they can do.</p>	Homemade book/s. For example, a long piece of paper folded to make a zig-zag book, a book that is cut and stapled, fold paper, punch holes and tie with ribbon or string, pens or pencils
Explains own knowledge and understanding and asks appropriate questions of others.	<p>Play 'What's in the box?' by placing an item or picture in a box and then encouraging your child to ask questions to find out what the item is. For example, if a teddy bear, they might ask, "Is it a toy?" "Is it hard or soft?" "Does it have arms and legs?" "Can it fly?" "Does it move?" The rules could mean that you will just answer "yes" or "no" to these questions. Aim to have a limit of 10 questions. Consider keeping count using a tally such as adding 10 pegs onto a piece of card, placing 10 pieces of pasta in a bowl, 10 ticks on a piece of paper. Your child will then have to guess after the 10 questions have been asked.</p> <p>Swap roles and allow your child to answer your questions.</p>	A box with a lid that is large enough for any item you might put in it. Paper, pens, card, pegs, pasta, bowls, items or pictures to go in the box