

Helping my child's development and learning at home.

Encourage **early mark making** in tactile materials - in flour on a work surface, shaving foam in a tray.

Encourage **fine motor development** with activities such as cutting paper and card with scissors, squeezing and squashing play dough*, threading pasta shapes onto laces or string, or fine collage (encouraging the pincer movement) with small collage pieces such as lentils or rice.

* You can make your own play dough quite easily with flour, salt and oil.

Name writing - Practice the initial sound in your name - on paper and in tactile materials too. (Children will tire from practising their pencil hold; it's great to practise in something that is not permanent so that you can rub it out and try again.)

Try tracing over your name card, or copying over writing in a lighter pen or dot letter formations. Move on to copying adult modelled letters in your name.

Numbers - we love to watch **Numberblocks** - lots of interesting and engaging programmes exploring number. Recite numbers as you go about your day and enjoy number rhymes and nursery rhymes. Find everyday opportunities to count together...how many forks do we need? How many pieces of banana can we cut? How many pieces would you like?

Secure counting takes time to consolidate- so focus on 1 to 5. Find objects to count and sort to explore number patterns and relationships.

Practise writing numerals 1 to 9 - always start at the top!

You might find lots of resources to interest and engage your child on the website **Twinkl** too. We use these resources in the nursery and Reception classes; they have a special registration offer for parents currently.

Our summer term topic is living things and the natural world.

Our core book is **'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'** by **Eric Carle**.

Watch the animated story on youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQK-Sm1YY>

Maybe you could **paint or draw a beautiful butterfly**? You could paint with your finger, a cotton bud, a sponge or even an old toothbrush - try different ways to make marks.

Explore making symmetrical patterns - simply fold a piece of paper in half and open out again. Paint on one side only then close the paper together again. Gently unfold to see your amazing pattern repeated on both sides.

What healthy fruits are you eating at home?

The caterpillar eats too many of the wrong things too! Can you remember what foods are good for us and good for our teeth, and what foods are not so good? Could you try planting an apple pip or seed from a fruit at home?

Try planting a dried bean. This link tells you how, you can even grow the bean in a sealed plastic bag or an old yoghurt pot if you don't have a jar.

<https://www.science-sparks.com/bean-in-a-jar/>

Read linked traditional tale, 'Jack and the Beanstalk.'

Watch the animated story at:

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/short-stories/jack-and-the-beanstalk>

Could you act out the story? Stomp around with huge giant steps?

Research - we know that our chickens lay eggs, but **can you find out** what other animals come from eggs? There are lots of them and some of them might surprise you!

Make your own play dough

[:https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+make+playdough+at+home&og=How+to+make+playdough&aqs=chrome.2.0l8.6350j0j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=_sl-dXp3SJ9DGgQbqqvoDQ43](https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+make+playdough+at+home&og=How+to+make+playdough&aqs=chrome.2.0l8.6350j0j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=_sl-dXp3SJ9DGgQbqqvoDQ43)

Don't forget to practice writing the sounds in your name. Practice with a capital letter for the beginning of the name only, then lower case letters as we learn in Read Write.

<http://www.thebellbird.cambs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Letter-formation-chart.pdf>

Also parents may like to follow this link for a guide to how we teach children to say the sounds

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/read-write-inc-phonics--1/phonics-pure-sounds-video>

Numbers - watch **Numberblocks** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

For number songs and other nursery rhymes

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwdqwx>

Here are a few more of our favourite websites:

<https://www.busythings.co.uk/take-a-free-trial>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>

<http://www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk/page/?title=Program+Resources&pid=389> -

we like the **Bugz game** and number rhymes

Keep active. Here is the link to our favourite **Gummy Bear Zumba** too!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkfzyMy47GI>

Enjoy, have fun and keep busy!

From Mrs Wason