

## **Spring term update: helping my child's development and learning at home.**

Encourage **early mark making** in tactile materials - draw with your finger in flour on a work surface, scratch marks in shaving foam in a tray with tools such as lolly sticks, fork, comb. Talk about the patterns and shapes you are making.

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. Use children's favourite toys encourages their engagement e.g. with a small set of toy cars (5 or 6 ) you could explore the following:

- Counting how many altogether (counting all) - reciting numbers and counting with one to one correspondence (saying one number name for each object.)
- Sorting by colour, counting the sets of objects. I have 2 blue cars and 3 red cars, altogether I have 5 cars. There are more red cars than blue cars, 1 more.
- Sorting by size - which is the biggest? Size order from biggest to smallest. Using language of size such as small, smaller, smallest to compare sizes.
- Put number stickers on the cars and draw a numbered grid to represent a car park with parking places. Park each car in its corresponding number parking space i.e. car number 3 parks in car number 3 space. You could try parking the given number of cars in each parking space too i.e. 3 cars in parking space number 3, 1 car in space number 1 etc. These activities support numeral recognition (matching and naming) sorting and counting. To extend counting try counting wheels or doors on the cars e.g. one car has 4 wheels, how many wheels altogether if I have 2 cars?
- Explore subtraction too - I have 5 cars, one drives away and now I have...?
- Tell stories too about your cars journey encouraging positional language e.g. I'm driving over the bridge, around the roundabout. I stop next to the /in front of, in between
- 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 spring term topic is ourselves, our special people, our feelings.**

Our core book is **'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister** .

**Watch the animated story** on youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAAjkJRLO34>  
(Storytime with the Shakesbies)

Maybe you could **paint or draw a beautiful rainbow fish**? You could collage your fish sticking on pieces of foil, shiny paper or sweet wrappers or paint patterns with your finger, a cotton bud, a sponge or even an old toothbrush - try different ways to make marks.

Talk about the rainbow fish - how did he behave? How does the small fish feel when he is shouted at? Why don't the other fish want to have rainbow fish as a friend now? What happens at the end of the story?

Look at photos of family and friends - who is special to you? Have you any pictures of family celebrations? Did you wear special clothes, eat special food, did you give gifts?

Other stories linked to our core book are: **Hooray for Fish** - by Lucy Cousins, **Barry the Fish with Fingers** - by Sue Hendra, **The Fish Who Could Wish** - by John Bush. Also a wonderful collection of rhymes and poems called **'Commotion in the Ocean'** - by Giles Andreae.

Google the titles to find read aloud and animated versions of all the books listed above.

**Make your own play dough**

[:https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+make+playdough+at+home&oq=How+to+make+playdough&aqs=chrome..69j0j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=\\_sl-dXp3SJ9DGgQbqqqvoDQ43](https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+make+playdough+at+home&oq=How+to+make+playdough&aqs=chrome..69j0j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=_sl-dXp3SJ9DGgQbqqqvoDQ43)

**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/zhwdgwx>

**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>

**Move and freeze** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrvvnWq3eiU>

**Dinosaur stomp** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmhi98dHa5w>

**1,2,3,4,5 Jump** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mB3lf9-gpL0>

Enjoy, have fun and keep busy!

From Mrs Wason