

Reception Home Learning Packs – Coronavirus

Thursday 19th March 2020

Here is a simple guide to how often and how long your child should ideally spend working on the different aspects of learning. This is obviously flexible and times can be split up into smaller chunks to suit your child's attention span & ability to concentrate.

Playing & Talking – as much as possible!

Whatever you are doing with your child please talk to them lots & lots and give them opportunities to talk with you in an extended way. Introduce them to new words; encourage them to ask questions and ensure they listen to you & respond to your questions and the things you say. Being able to hold a really good conversation is so important for their communication and language development at this early age.

Physical activities – throughout the day at regular intervals

This can include ideas from the Physical Development section in your pack. Where it is possible take your child outside to get fresh air & to allow their bodies to move and stretch in different ways. You will find they can concentrate on indoor learning activities better when they have had time and space to burn off energy.

Phonics activities – daily for at least 15-20 mins

This can include using the resources in your pack and playing online phonics games.

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-3-games.html>

Tricky word activities – daily for at least 5-10 mins

This can include using the resources in your pack and playing online tricky word games.

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/list/phonics-games-phase-3>

Reading – daily for at least 15 mins

This can include using the word and sentence matching resources in your pack and reading your child's reading scheme books.

Story/Book sharing time – twice daily for 15 mins

This involves reading books to your child (one of these would be your usual bedtime story) – reading stories is the main focus but sharing and looking at information books is valuable too.

Writing – daily for 5-10 mins

This can include practicing forming the letters using the laminated letter writing mat & whiteboard pen in your pack. Also the children can use their pen to practice writing their name – especially their surname. Please ensure they start at the dot each time & follow the arrow. In addition, please encourage your child to make labels for models and drawings they make e.g. I made a model car. This is my family. The children should be encouraged to use their phonics skills so the words may not be spelt correctly. Only correct the tricky words if they spell these incorrectly (these are the words on the Tricky word mats).

Maths – daily for at least 15 mins

This can include using the resources in your pack and the suggested activity ideas. Counting forwards and backwards is a crucial activity to repeat whenever possible and you can use online counting songs to

support with this. If you search within You Tube for counting to 20 or 100 videos you will find a great selection. Also search for Jack Hartman & subitising up to 5 or 10.

Other Areas of Learning – twice or 3 times weekly

This can include ideas from the Areas of Learning ideas page in your pack. You might find that one activity sparks their interest and leads to other related activities – it’s really important you follow this interest and build on their enthusiasm. Equally if they have an interest not mentioned in the pack then feel free to follow your child’s interest – this is something that we would be doing if in school.

Daily household routines also come under this umbrella and there’s no harm in involving your child in helping you to prepare meals and hang the washing out, etc.

Final note to parents:

It is important not to expect your child to sit for extended periods of time reading, writing & doing maths. Short bursts of focused activity work best for children of this age.

You will probably find that your child is able to focus better in the mornings and I would recommend where possible completing phonics, reading & maths activities earlier in the day.

I hope that these suggestions help and support you and your child in continuing their learning at home.

Good luck and have fun!

Yours sincerely

Bryony Booth - Reception Class teacher

RECEPTION HOME LEARNING IDEAS FOR READING & WRITING

Here is a selection of ideas linked to Reading & Writing that you might do while at home using resources in your pack.

Phase 3 Sound Mat

- Fastest finger first – say a sound and see how fast they can point to it
- Play I spy “I spy with my little eye...something with the oi sound (Answer: coin)
- Speed reading each one – time your child pointing at each one in turn and saying the sound. Can they get faster each day?
- Say the sound and your child has to write the letters that make the sound or simply say them e.g. You say: “how do you write ai?” They answer: “you need an **a** then an **i**” or they write it down.

Tricky word Mats

- See same ideas as for the Phase 3 Sound mat above +
- Make another set of the words on cards and play bingo
- Say the word and your child has to write the word without looking.
- Write the word quite large then ask your child to close their eyes. Rub a letter out or hide with your hand then when they open their eyes they have to say which letter is missing.
- Write a word incorrectly (you or pretend a puppet has done it!) See if your child can spot the mistake and tell you how to correct it. So instead of writing **she** write **hse** or write **her** as **hre** or write **was** as **woz** (common errors children make are swapping letters round or using phonics and not visualising what the word looks like)

Word & Sentence matching cards

- Cut these up, mix them up and ask your child to read the word or sentence then match to the correct picture. You might want to start with just 3 or 4 at a time, not the whole set at once.

Home Reading Books

- Read as you normally would. Re-read at regular intervals to build fluency – this means your child should begin to remember the words and say them without sounding all of them out.
- Spend lots of time discussing what has happened & why plus predicting what will happen next as you go along.

RECEPTION HOME LEARNING IDEAS FOR MATHS

Here is a selection of ideas linked to Maths that you might do while at home using resources in your pack. The expectation is for children to work with numbers up to 20. Only go beyond 20 if your child is really secure up to 20. I've included a number square to 100 so that you have the flexibility to do this but it is not essential & will be too hard for many children.

Number formation mats

- Use the whiteboard pen provided to practise tracing the numbers.
- On blank paper ask them to write numbers in order to 20 or make a number track using paper shapes – your child can write the numbers on & place in order

Number square

- Practise following the numbers and counting aloud. Children can go past 20 if they seem confident up to 20.
- Practise counting backwards from 20 or any number below 20. Only when they can do this should you try counting back from numbers more than 20.
- Fastest Finger – you can say a range of different things & your child has to point to the correct number as fast as possible e.g. point to number 19, point to 1 more than 12... or 1 less than 14, point to a number less than 20, more than 10, point to the number between 11 and 13, etc
- Make another set of numbers or use raffle tickets & play four in a row bingo
- Play first to 100 (or another number set by you). Roll a dice & move on that many steps each time. First person to 100 wins!

Number of the Day

Select a number between 3 and 10. Make this the number of the day! Do everything you can with this number as the focus. Ideas include:

- Writing/painting the number (in the air/on paper) or making it out of playdough
- Use fingers to make that amount in different ways e.g. 5 fingers on one hand or 2 fingers on one hand & 3 on the other, 4 and 1, etc
- Draw the amount e.g. draw 5 flowers if 5 is the number of the day
- Counting out that many things e.g. use pennies or blocks or whatever you have at home. How can they make that amount in different ways e.g. 6 can be made by splitting it into 3 & 3 or 4 & 2 or 5 & 1 or 6 & 0. Children could split their pennies between you and them like this & you can ask: Who has more? Who has fewer? Which way is the fair way? (when we have the same amount) This will allow you to talk about how some numbers you cannot share equally.

Other ideas for aspects of Maths not included in the pack:

- Baking involves lots of maths – counting biscuits/cakes/decorations plus counting & measuring the ingredients

- You could bake or use playdough for a dolls or teddy bear picnic (in the house or garden). Your child will need to count out plates/cutlery, share cakes, biscuits, etc. They could perhaps write invitations too!
- Looking at the calendar each day & crossing off each day – this helps with number recognition & learning the days of the week & months of the year. Please help them learn when their birthday is.
- Learn a days of the week/months of the year song (Search on You Tube for Days of the week/Months of the year songs for kids)
- Go on a shape hunt (around the house or as part of a walk) – look for 3D shapes in the food cupboards e.g. pringles tube is a cylinder, boxes can be cubes or cuboids, oranges are a sphere (not sure you'll find cones & pyramids as easily!)
- Make a pretend shop or café – this can involve making price labels, recognising coins and counting pennies/pounds. Talking to them as they play saying things like: “How much will you have left if you spend 5p?” “I don’t think I have enough money to buy that” “How much do I need to be able to buy/afford that?” They can also make signs to name their shop plus open/closed signs & receipts & order forms.
- Play board games like good old snakes & ladders or Ludo plus if you have any good maths related Orchard games they are fantastic too.

The list is endless if you can be creative in your thinking. The most important thing is to keep it manageable & as fun as possible so that your child enjoys playing with numbers and counting.

RECEPTION HOME LEARNING IDEAS FOR OTHER AREAS OF LEARNING

Here is a selection of ideas linked to the other areas of learning we cover in Reception that you might do while at home.

PRIME AREAS OF LEARNING		
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Personal, Social & Emotional Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping with chores • Showing care & kindness to siblings and family members and pets • Play games that involve taking turns & sharing and also allow them to experience and cope with losing. • Talk about feelings and questions your child has around not being at school, missing friends & the virus that’s causing this. Help them to label their emotions e.g. upset, 	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go for a daily walk/run • Play throwing and catching games with someone or against a wall • Follow an online workout e.g. HIIT or yoga for kids • Talk about how to keep healthy – sleep, exercise, hygiene, foods & drinks • Use tools for chopping/grating to prepare healthy snacks (under supervision) • Make your own playdough and play with daily. Search “Dough Disco” online and use to strengthen hands & fingers. • Use scissors to cut out shapes and around templates 	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Communication & Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to stories on a daily basis. Repeat readings so children become so familiar they can retell them orally. • Make simple little puppets to retell stories with. • Acting stories out using props and places around the house. • Share information books and talk about things your child is interested in – show them pictures online and watch video clips to bring topics of interest to life. • Learn a new word each day – this could be from a story or the name of a new

<p>worried, nervous, unsure, confused and understand why they might feel like this.</p>	<p>when making crafts. Make sure they are holding the scissors correctly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about being safe online when children are accessing online games for learning & for leisure. 	<p>animal or thing they'd never heard of before.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage children to talk through how they made things or what they did – like a step by step process e.g. First I... Then....Next...Finally...
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SPECIFIC AREAS OF LEARNING



Understanding the World

- Go on nature walks and look for signs of growth. Talk about how trees, plants & flowers are growing. Look for birds and small creatures like caterpillars, ladybirds & butterflies. Talk about the life cycles of these animals.
- Plant seeds e.g. sunflower/broad bean and watch them grow – keep a growth diary each week by drawing pictures and/or taking photographs. Use to talk about the changes and the process.
- Learn to name the parts of a flower e.g. stem, leaf, petal, roots. They could draw a picture and label these using their phonics skills.
- Watch the weather forecast each day and talk about how the weather changes. Talk about the Summer months and what the weather might be like in Summer.
- Look at the map on the weather forecast to become familiar with the shape of the UK & Ireland plus go on a walk or journey in the car & use Google maps or your sat nav to help your child become familiar with road/street maps. Make your own maps together – of real places or imaginary ones perhaps linked to journey or pirate stories you have read!



Expressive Arts & Design

- Listen to different kinds of music & talk about how it makes them feel & if they like or dislike it.
- Play music and encourage them to move or dance to match the rhythm. Dance with them!
- Encourage your child to do lots of drawing – this can be anything they are interested in but more specifically work on drawing people that have bodies, arms, legs and facial features. You could look closely at trees, flowers or plants and copy the lines & shapes they see.
- If you have paints at home, only allow them red, blue & yellow – they can then mix to make different shades of green, orange, purple & brown.
- They could create collages and patterns using lots of different materials. These can be stuck down to create a permanent picture or used loosely & moved around to create different things at different times. Ideas for materials to use are: pebbles/shells/sticks/leaves/bark chippings/buttons/coins/corks/beads/string
- Collect your recycling and allow them to create models of their choice. Making boats is a fun one to try as you can then test it out on water in the sink or bath to see if it floats and to see if the material it is made from is waterproof.