

Class One

Home School Ideas 2

Dear Parents,

We are now just over 5 weeks into this new way of living and I hope you are all well and getting through it the best way you can.

The sunny weather is a bonus. I'm really missing all the children and the busy classroom environment and I can't wait to see them all when we are allowed to go back to school again.

I have sent some more ideas for you if you need/want them. It's very difficult to send lots of work when most of what we do in the classroom is practical but I am sure you are doing lots at home anyway.

Many Thanks

Joelle

Communication, Language and Literacy

Stories

In Class One we use lots of Big Books and books for our daily Literacy. I use lots of rhyming stories as I find the children like to hear the rhythm as they are read. I also repeat a lot of the stories and find the children will remember certain parts especially if it's exciting, your voice becomes louder/softer or you introduce a surprise, e.g. puppet/prop. Reading with your child is also a lovely activity for shared communication and you can build in turn-taking (turning pages) and encourage lots of eye-contact and sounds (wait for them to suggest turning page/continue reading...)

Some of the stories we use in class are:

Alphabet Ice-Cream by Sue Heap and Nick Sharratt

Nine Ducks Nine by Sarah Hayes

Ten in the Bed by Penny Dale

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? By Eric Carle

There are also lots of stories being read on YouTube/Facebook if you would prefer. I recently came across the Libraries NI page on Facebook and they had been posting a story on YouTube every day at 11.30am (I'm not sure if they are continuing this weekly throughout lockdown). There are lots of different stories and you can watch them whenever you like.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnIITOL2VJU>



Nursery Rhymes/Songs

Songs and rhymes have a hugely positive impact on a child's language and literacy development. Children love rhyme, rhythm and repetition. These three things found in songs and rhymes can naturally help to boost a child's language and literacy skills.

Singing is a **big** part of our day in Class One. We sing our Good morning songs, our songs in Circle Time linked to our monthly theme, action songs, lunch time songs, tidy up songs and just before we go home we watch some of our favourite songs on the whiteboard. While watching songs on YouTube is fun, children can learn new songs and copy actions and many children enjoy this, always remember that although Ipads have many benefits they are not the best communication partner for a child. A screen cannot give eye contact or stop and wait to encourage communication or request more/less. Sing with your child at home, it doesn't matter what you sing or if you aren't the best singer. Sit with them on the floor and sing 'Row, row, row your boat', and hold your child's hands and rock back and forth. Encourage eye contact, stop during the song and wait for them to request more.

Action Songs to try at home

- Head, shoulders, knees and toes (make it more fun by repeating it and singing faster)
- If you're happy and you know it (endless possibilities for adding extra verses)
- Wind the bobbin
- The wheels on the bus
- The Grand Old Duke

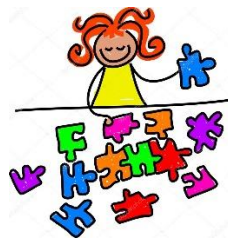


Play

Play is a really important part of children's learning and development. Children learn all kinds of skills through play; they learn how things work, how to interact and share with other children, how to play with different toys and to enter a world of imagination. Playing enables children to test things out in a safe way, to learn about emotions and to talk with others. Children often love adults to play with them. It's great if you can follow their lead and join in the fun.

Puzzles

Do a simple jigsaw puzzle with your child. If you don't have any puzzles, you can make your own by cutting up a picture from a magazine into 4 to 6 pieces - can your child put them back together to make the picture?



Treasure box

You and your child could make up a treasure box along a theme. You could get some pots and pans, pretend food and some soft toys and get ready for a picnic. Or get some old jewellery, an eye patch and a treasure map and get ready for a pirate adventure!



Online Resources

www.scholastic.co.uk

This website has lots of free games for non-members.

Type 'interactive games' into the search bar and make sure its searching through the resource bank.

At the side click on 'non-members free content' and you can find some games which the children might enjoy.



Matching Colours game



Acrobatic Fun

Soundabout

Find them on Facebook

Every day at 9.30am - Soundabout's Hello Songs!!

At 2pm on Tuesday and Saturday - Soundabout Live!

Sensory Spectacle (Find on Facebook)

Some lovely sensory ideas to use at home, e.g. cloud dough, shakers, jelly shapes, butterfly prints...

TacPac

Tacpac combines the sense of touch and music through social interaction. It is a sensory communication resource and we use it regularly in school. Tacpac are offering the use of their Set 5 pack free for use at home. Simply follow the following instructions:

'Hello all Tacpackers!

We're delighted that there has been such a tremendous response to our offer of using Set 5 for free at home.

Once you have Set 5 it's important to watch the videos of the activities on the Tacpac website to help you get started. Here's how to find them:

- 1. Go to tacpac.co.uk, click on 'My Account' in the main navigation and sign in*
- 2. On your dashboard, click 'Memberships', it's in the pink list on the left hand side*
- 3. You will see Set 5 listed there, click 'view'*

Here you'll find an introduction from Hilary Wainer, Tacpac's Creator, and videos to help set up and for each of the activities.'

Also Check out their Facebook page for more updates.

Story Massage Programme (find on Facebook or www.storymassage.co.uk)

The story massage programme is a fun and flexible way of sharing the benefits of positive touch with storytelling. It is suitable for all ages.



