

Ideas for activities, resources and home learning for children within the early years (birth to five):

Following the announcement about schools and early years providers closing on Friday 21st March until further notice for all children (with the exception of children of 'key workers' or 'vulnerable children') we have collated some ideas and suggestions below for things that you can do at home with babies and children to support their learning and development.

Some of these are on-line resources and some are ideas for interactive activities and simple play indoors and outdoors as it is important to aim to ensure a balance, including opportunities for children to be active.



- The **Anna Freud centre** has useful information about supporting the mental health and well-being of children and young people (including babies and toddlers) during this time. The second question within the 'Advice for parents and carers' section contains specific reference to babies and toddlers as well as older children and teenagers:

https://www.annafreud.org/_what-we-do/anna-freud-learning-network/coronavirus/



- The **NHS** provides a useful resource to support parents with understanding, caring for and playing with their baby and toddler: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/your-baby-after-birth/?tabname=babies-and-toddlers#/what-your-newborn-baby-can-do>
- There are lot of tips for playing with a baby and young child here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/why-play-is-important/> and some simple ideas for parents to help children of different ages with play and learning: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/play-ideas-and-reading/>



- Visit the **Imagination Library Webpage** for ideas, activities and links for the

Early Years Practitioners can visit the Imagination Library slack forum which will be updated daily with simple early years activities, ideas, resources, links and suggestions. Please do post your suggests on slack too. (If you are not already a member they can email earlyyears@northlincs.gov.uk and you will be invited).

- **The North Lincolnshire local offer website** contains information for parents and professionals to support with SEND. Parents of early years children may find the resources within the Early Years SEND and Inclusion Handbook useful to support with strategies for behaviour and communication:
<http://www.northlincslocaloffer.com/professionals-area/training-and-development-for-professionals>



- **The BBC ‘Tiny Happy People- Your words build their world’**
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people> helps parents to develop your child's communication skills. Explore our simple activities and play ideas and find out about their amazing early development.
- The **Cbeebies website** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies> gives a range of games, puzzles and songs for young children from approximately age three onwards and the app provides stories that can be downloaded for free, including questions for parents to support talking about and understanding the story:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/cbeebies-storytime-app>
- **‘Big Little Moments’** provides ideas for building young brains. Babies and toddlers are growing and learning every day and the little moments you share can make a big difference. From morning time to bedtime, waiting for the bus to playing together, every moment is a chance to help build a child's brain.
<http://www.smallstepsbigchanges.org.uk/biglittlemoments>

“small talk”
Little ways to make a big difference

- **Small Talk** - Little ways to Make a Big Difference Chat-Play-Read <http://www.small-talk.org.uk/>



- The 'Hungry Little Minds' campaign provides simple, fun activities for children from new born to five www.hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/



- **BookTrust** provides information, advice and ideas to support your child with their reading and make reading fun. Great for families with children 0-5 years. <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>



- **Twinkl is on on-line resource to support home learning**, lots of resources, lessons and ideas to keep the children busy. Twinkl have removed their fee to that is free to access over the coming months: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/>



- **Early Learning HQ** - Activities, games and resources for EYFS/KS1 children <https://www.earlylearninghq.org.uk/>



- **Wildlife Watch** - If you care about nature and love wildlife, Wildlife Watch is the club for you! Lots of fabulous and free ideas and resources linked to activities you can do outdoors. <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/>
- **IXL.COM** - Interactive activities, games and lessons for **Reception to Year 13** <https://uk.ixl.com/>

- **Virtual Museum/Gallery Tours**

Most museums and galleries have virtual tours now - here is a link to just a few of them including National History Museum

<https://www.virtualiteach.com/post/2017/08/20/10-amazing-virtual-museum-tours>



- The **National Literacy Trust** has developed a new 'family zone' portal providing ideas and guidance for simple activities that children can do at home, while also benefiting their reading, writing and language development. This can be found at the following link: https://literacytrust.org.uk/familyzone/?mc_cid=1a89f05f20&mc_eid=3af4b91c46



- **Words for Life is the National Literacy Trust's website for parents.** A great website for parents with children of all ages. Showing them how to support their child with Communication, Language & Literacy
- <http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/>



- **Classroom Secrets Limited** have produced some a home learning pack with practical ideas for early years aged children:



EYFS-Home-Learning
-Pack.pdf

<https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/free-home-learning-packs/>

**Please be aware that this contains reference to children playing with shaving foam which is not advisable for safety reasons*



- Alistair Bryce Clegg has collated ideas for simple home learning ideas here: <https://abcdoes.com/home-learning/>



- Mr MC (<https://www.mrmcmakingmemories.com/>) has produced ideas for simple exploration activities:

How many cups do you have in your house? Can you order them by size?
Investigate how much each cup can hold using...lego, marbles, toy cars, dolls etc.

Take 4 ice cubes from the freezer - which will melt first? Put one at the front door, one at the back door, one in your hand and the other in the fridge.

Do you have Alexa? Every hour, on the hour, ask Alexa to play your favourite song. Karaoke time, dance time!

Find every sock in your house! How many socks do you have? Mix all the socks up, time each other using a phone stopwatch to see how can match them the fastest.

Label everything in the house! Use post it notes or small pieces of paper, how many things can you label in 5 minutes?

Using 30 lego pieces / building blocks. How many different things can you build? Can you make a repeating colour pattern?

Look out your window.... What can you see? Can you write a list of everything you can see? Can you draw a picture of your house and label it? How many door numbers can you see? What colours can you see?

Create a journal/diary of your time off school... Write the day / date etc What did you do? See? Hear? Memories?


Google 'nursery rhymes' or look some up on Youtube / Alexa. Learn a new nursery rhyme every day.

Built a boat that will float! Using items from around the house, recycling etc can you build a boat that will float in your sink / bath?

How many numbers can you see around the house? Can you take a photo of all of the different numbers around the house?

Plant some cress seeds / grass seeds / sunflower seeds. Care for your seeds by watering them every day. Can you make a growing journal? Eg. Day 1... draw a picture and write what you can observe. etc

Make a bouncy egg!! Place an unboiled egg in a glass of vinegar. Change the vinegar 24 hours later and leave for another 24 hours!



Let's get exploring!

- The following site has a range of simple ideas:
<https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/indoor-activities-for-kids/>
- **Lego Education** - Download FREE Lego Education software on to your computer or laptop. We like to use Story Starter Software (it's in the retired products section)
<https://education.lego.com/en-gb/downloads>
- The following company have created a '**30 days of Lego**' calendar providing ideas which could be either used with Lego. Alternatively the ideas could be adapted to use with other items (e.g. boxes, dough, and blocks) or children could be encouraged to talk about, draw or paint their ideas:

<https://www.theshirleyjourney.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Lego30daysofplay.pdf>



- **Little pine learners** have some good suggestions for simple activities both indoors and outdoors:

100 Low-Prep Backyard Activities for Kids	
Cloud gaze	Shovel Snow
Bird Watch	Make Stick Crowns
Paint Nature	Cook A Meal Outside
Look For Animal Tracks	Run Around The House 5 Times
Watch The Sunset	Identify Plants
Go Puddle Jumping	Run Through The Sprinkler
Make Mud Pies	Make Muddy Toy Car Tracks
Paint Nature With Water	Check The Moon Phase
Pick Up Sticks	Roast Marshmallows
Make Stickman	Make A Nature Portrait
Pick Up Garbage	Climb A Tree
Go On A Nature Scavenger Hunt	Paint Nature Shadows
Make A Nature Bracelet	Make Stick And Stone Constellations
Create Land Art	Color With Nature
Make A Fort	Search For Seeds
Make Tree And Leaf Rubbings	Make A Hop Scotch With Chalk
Search For Animal Homes	Look For Symmetry In Nature
Hunt For Mushrooms	Make Nature Suncatchers
Search For Signs Of The Season	Make A Bird Feeder
Make Letters Out Of Nature	Paint With Nature
Count Pieces Of Nature	Go Stargazing
Thread Beads On Sticks	Looks For Beginning Sounds In Nature
Build A Bonfire	Frozen Nature Play
Play Flashlight Tag At Night	Make Mud Faces On Trees
Make Up A Nature Story	Draw With Sticks In Mud
Read Outside	Make A Nature Puzzle
Free Play	Take Nature Photos
Write With Chalk	Press Flowers
Blow Bubbles	Explore With Binoculars
Bring Toys Outside	Listen To Music
Make A Nature Tic-Tac-Toe Board	Fly A Kite
Make Nature Prints	Make A Journey Stick
Play Sticker Tag	Make A Nature Badge
Looks For Bugs	Throw A Frisbee
Make Art	Make An Icy Suncatcher
Weave Nature	Search For Hidden Toys
Stack Snowballs	Go On A Five Senses Walk
Sort Nature	Cut Pieces Of Nature
Collect Nature	Search For Colors In Nature
Have A Picnic Outside	Make Sticky Paper Nature Art
Wash Your Car	Make Snowy Cookie Cutter Designs
Wash Toys	Hug Trees
Make Sun Prints	Hula Hoop Toss
Play A Sport	Plant Something
Make Nature Jars	Dig In The Dirt
Make A Flower Hiking Stick	Stack And Balance Rocks
Make A Musical Hiking Stick	Make A Map Of Your Yard
Make A Nature Writing Tray	Make Flower Paintbrushes
See What Sinks And Floats	Start A Nature Journal
Jump In A Pile Of Leaves	Make A Magical Snow Garden



Look for the details on these activities at [Littlepinelearners.com](https://littlepinelearners.com)

More information about the ideas above can be found here:

<https://littlepinelearners.com/100-low-prep-activities-you-can-do-on-your-own-backyard/>



- **Scholastic learn at home** has provided some stories, video clips and activities suitable for pre-school aged children here:

<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome/grades-prek-k.html>

FREE Online Library Resources

- **Library Service- BorrowBox**

Out Soon. Get children reading with BorrowBox, your library in one app. Borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks free from your library using our BorrowBox app. Say hello to your future library, wherever you are, whenever you are free. <https://www.borrowbox.com/>

Also worth downloading the following Apps for free books, audio books, e-books and magazines. You need the number on the back of your library card for this. You can get a library card by visiting your local library or get a temporary

- **RB Digital - Books & Magazines - Has FREE David Walliams Books ;-)**
- **Press Reader - Magazines & Newspapers**

<https://www.opac.northlincs.gov.uk/join-the-library>