



Learning in the Home – Early Years Information and Support

Welcome to your Help Guide!

This guide aims to provide useful advice and signposting to promote independent learning, in accordance with our learning homes caring schools ethos. We hope this guide will be helpful for the children in your home to further their education.

In this booklet you will find:

- Learning activities to do at home
- Useful links and ideas for self-study
- Advice and links for EAL students

We hope that you find this resource useful!

North Yorkshire Virtual School Team

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the links provided are accurate, we are not endorsing companies/providers.

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Personal, Social and Emotional



Decorate a scrap book, collect pictures or drawings of favourite things ('All about me' book).



Personal, Social and Emotional Development supports children's development of self-confidence and self-awareness, managing feelings and behaviour and making relationships

Find a child friendly mirror and look at each of you faces-encourage talking about expressions and feelings. You can pretend to be in different moods and see if you can make the right expression. Involve your child in talking about feelings such as happy/sad and how you can tell how people feel without spoken word

Whilst reading a story together talk about how the characters feel e.g. Humpty Dumpty – The Kings men. Encourage your child to talk about how they feel at different parts of the story

Find a cardboard box and make it into whatever the child can think of e.g. a shop, a helicopter, a bus. Take it in turns to play the different roles and encourage sharing any additional props.



Communication and Language



Have fun with tongue twisters/ nursery rhymes and rhyming stories. Say and sing Nursery Rhymes in different voices (whispering, shouting) and at different speeds (quickly/slowly)



Give daily opportunities to share a wide range of stories, songs and rhymes non-fiction books. Discuss new words with your child as you come across them and before stories. Go on a 'picture walk' through the book-encourage the children to make predictions talk about the pictures that the children are interested in.



Make collections of objects beginning with a certain sound - collect in a special box/basket/ matchbox Explore feely bags with different sized/ textured objects – introduce vocabulary (furry, smooth, warm, soft etc.) Experiment with new words e.g. learn other words for big, – gigantic, enormous, huge humongous – for small – petite, tiny, miniature



Notice and learn about capital/ lowercase letters



Have fun thinking of unusual ways to travel and places you can visit. Talk about planning an expedition through the jungle, compare town and countryside, will it be hot or cold what might we see? Have a backpack full of items such as a water bottle, binoculars, camera, compass, pen and notepad, first aid kit for children and a map – unpack and talk through each item. Play a game of 'in my back pack I will pack



Talk about different shops. Play 'I went to the butchers/ bakers/supermarket pet shop one day and I bought a

Make a collection of environmental print e.g. ASDA, Tesco etc Visit a supermarket and talk about all the different shapes/colours of food that are available e.g. pastas Learn names for colours and shapes to describe fruit and vegetables

Physical Development



Go for a walk together. Share books/information before going outside or on a trip and ask what shall we look for? Set off for a walk and go under, over, through, round etc.- take turns to be the leader. Follow giant footsteps, tiptoe like a fairy, run like a ginger bread man, climb the 'beanstalk', chop it down explore the story outside.



Set up an obstacle course, see how quickly you can each complete it. You could do this inside or outside. You could even set up your own sports day at home.



Use pasta or beads and thread them onto some string. You could paint the pasta first and make bookmarks or necklaces. You could also try feeding dry spaghetti into an upside down colander.



You could try doing some Yoga, there are some great yoga videos like Cosmic Kids

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5ulZ2KOZZeQDQoGsi_qbQ?hl=en-GB



You could bake some biscuits or cakes together and decorate them. (Check our the recipes featured later in our booklet)



Play a game of hopscotch – you could do these with numbers or letters.

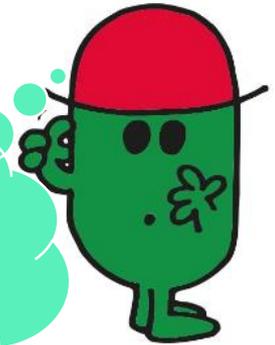
Can you reach behind you and try to hold your right foot with your left hand without falling over? How many seconds can you stay like that?

LITERACY



Label items for the shop, write a menu for a meal, make shopping lists, make personalised number plates. Remember it's about mark making, they don't have to be spelt correctly

Have pictures of the story in a muddle and ask the children to help you sequence them



Learn about Capital Letters for names make cakes and mark with names or initials
Grow cross seeds on cardboard initials

Explore rhyming names, create some new characters for the story



Numeracy

Park wheeled toys in numbered bays. Race cars and talk about which went the furthest fastest etc. Develop interest in number plates
Order a number train Make and count collections of objects/pictures

Follow instruction leaflets like for Duplo, talk about what happens e.g. 'first we need the green base, then we need the window'
Explore pattern in walls – what makes a strong wall?

Understand about time passing – make a visual time table of your day

Explore positional language next to, on top of, under. Find/hide objects in/under/over/beside and other positional language

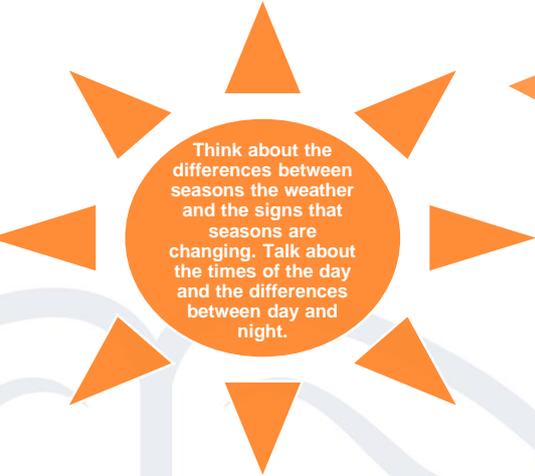
Look at books with pictures that show opposites such as large and small Use the mathematical language of size/shape/ comparison etc.

Compare sizes- make miniature sandwiches that dwarves might like or something for a giant Share out snack fairly Compare sizes of baby

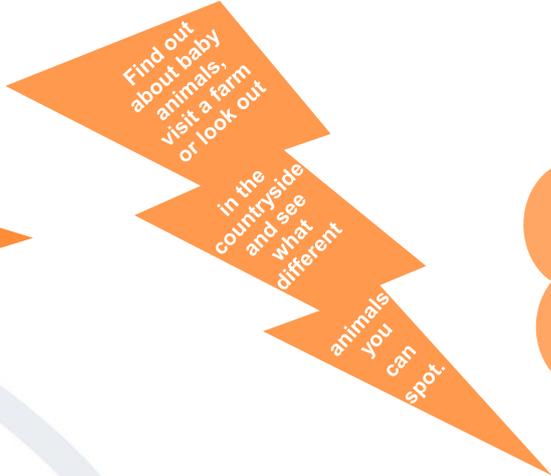
When talking about favourite things Sort collections using different criteria, notice objects that are odd one out in collections

clothes/shoes/accessories with their own/adults Which bottles/bowls hold the most? How many scoops does it take to fill a bowl using different sizes of spoon?

Understanding the World



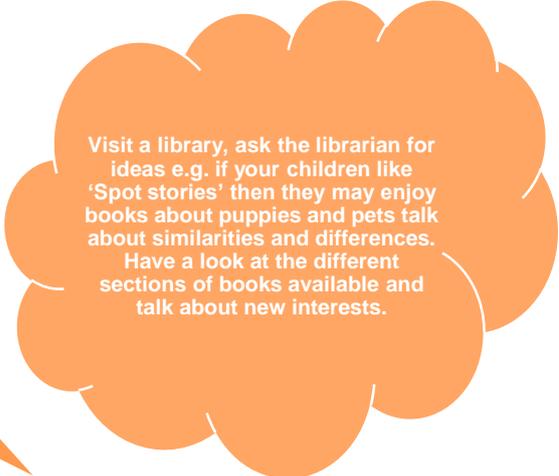
Think about the differences between seasons the weather and the signs that seasons are changing. Talk about the times of the day and the differences between day and night.



Find out about 'baby animals, visit a farm or look out

in the countryside and see what different

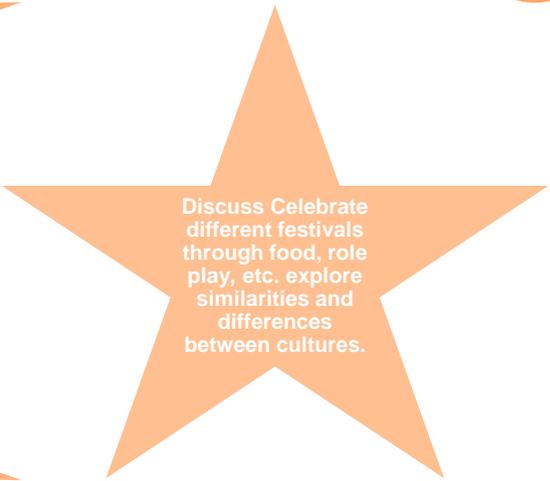
animals you can spot.



Visit a library, ask the librarian for ideas e.g. if your children like 'Spot stories' then they may enjoy books about puppies and pets talk about similarities and differences. Have a look at the different sections of books available and talk about new interests.



Make a map of an imaginary journey and think what landmarks you could visit on the way. You could even look at some virtual tours of landmarks that are overseas.



Discuss Celebrate different festivals through food, role play, etc. explore similarities and differences between cultures.

Explore lots of different musical instruments and make ups songs and different dances.

Use musical instruments to enhance a story-suggest large and small with high and low pitch or loud or quiet sounds. Also replicate vehicles coming close and moving further away (through loud and soft sounds).

Choose a simple recipe and help your child find and cut out pictures of ingredients. Hole punch one corner of pictures and fix together, go shopping with your key ring or list and ask your child if they can spot and name the things you need. Make and share different food items (e.g. bread, porridge or jam tarts). Explore different smells (watch out for allergies!).

Make sensory rattles or bags by filling emoty bottles or large zip locker bags with different items such as rice, food colouring in water, oil, glitter etc.

Paint or colour some pictures, displaying them after in bedrooms or around the house. You could finger paint, use brushes, make brushes using different objects, do potato or apple painting, roll cars or balls through the paint and look at the different patterns.

Make some playdough together and make different shapes using it.

When out for a walk see what objects you can find. Using these can you design a picture of anything? It could be from your imagination or something you cans see on your walk.

Expressive Art and Design

Five ways to keep your children entertained and engaged when learning at home

Keep them engaged in real-time learning: Ensure the activities are interactive

Keep them active: Make activities active or take breaks frequently using the get moving activities below

Keep them full: BBC Food has a guide on learning through cooking
https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/articles/learning_through_cooking

Keep things short and simple: Your child will learn more if you do a few short sessions a week

Keep them coming back for more!



YouTube Kids



Warning - take care with the suitability of adverts, auto-play and content recommended down the right hand side which can be unpredictable – it's best to set up and use YouTube Kids where possible.

Jack Hartmann Kids Music Channel - over 1000 fun educational songs

<https://www.youtubekids.com/channel/UCVcQH8A634mauPrGbWs7QIQ?hl=en-GB>

Science Shows for Kids

<https://www.youtubekids.com/channel/UCRFIPG2u1DxKLNuE3y2SjHA?hl=en-GB>

Barefoot Books – Sing along to stories

https://www.youtubekids.com/watch?v=25_u1GzruQM&list=PL0maGUp7cdUkPJgFg9PL0CAqzSDsWo2UR&hl=en-GB

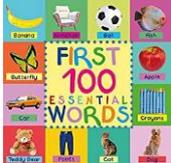
My Vox Songs – Counting songs, nursery rhymes and music playgroup.

https://www.youtubekids.com/channel/UCWpl_BgMnDOZTVvogDTzjLg?hl=en-GB

BBC Teach Early Years Nursery Rhymes

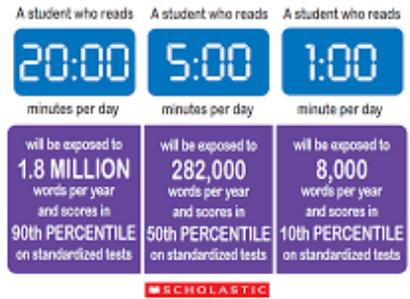
<https://www.youtubekids.com/watch?v=1NXZnhLCzJo&hl=en-GB>





Reading together

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF
READING 20
MINUTES PER DAY!



As well as listening to books on Audible (mentioned below), below are lists of books, recommended by Pie Corbett, that young children will enjoy. The list is designed for reading with your support (shared reading); they contain lots of opportunity for discussion.

Books for Nursery aged children

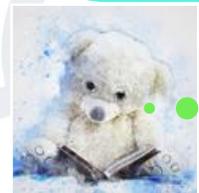
- Dear Zoo – Rod Campbell
- You Choose – Pippa Goodhart and Nick Sharratt
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt – Michael Rosen
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? – Bill Martin Jnr and Eric Carle
- Jasper's Beanstalk – Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar – Eric Carle
- Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy – Lynley Dodd
- Each Peach Pear Plum – Allan and Janet Ahlberg
- Hug – Jez Alborough
- The Train Ride – June Crebbin
- Come on, Daisy – Jane Simmons



Books for Reception aged children

- Owl Babies – Martin Waddell
- The Gruffalo – Julia Donaldson
- Handa's Surprise – Eileen Browne
- Mr Gumpy's Outing – John Burningham
- Wise-Brown Shhh! – Sally Grindley
- Rosie's Walk – Pat Hutchins
- Six Dinner Sid – Inga Moore
- Mrs Armitage – Quentin Blake
- Whatever Next – Jill Murphy
- On the Way Home – Jill Murphy
- Farmer Duck – Martin Waddell
- Goodnight Moon – Margaret

Stories narrated by famous people:
<https://www.storyonline.net/>





The Imagination Library is a literacy scheme that the Virtual School can access.



All LAC children aged between 0 and 5 who are registered on to the scheme will receive a book through the post every month for them to keep.



If a child is registered and attends your setting then we can register the setting too. The setting will receive the books at the same time as the child and help to promote working in partnership with parents and or carers.



For more information on the support the Virtual School can provide please contact us by email: virtualschool@northyorks.gov.uk or Telephone: 01609 533231



Useful web links to help your child's education

Oxford Owl - Phonics, reading, spelling, maths, outdoor learning activities.

- <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Phonics Play – Phonics games

- www.phonicsplay.co.uk/

Audible - Free audio stories for all ages

- <https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

Cbeebies – Fun activities for toddlers

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curations/fun-activities-for-toddlers-and-preschoolers>

BrainPop - Social-Emotional Learning for All ages

- <https://www.brainpop.com/>

Activities for Children Learning English as an Additional Language

Learn English Kids - Free games, songs, stories and activities.

- <http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/>

Agenda Web - English activities including Nursery Rhymes and Fairy-tales.

- www.agendaweb.org

Collaborative Learning - A variety of activities including activities based off books.

- <http://www.collaborativelearning.org/earlyyears.html>

Cbeebies Global - Learning games and activities for children aged 3-11

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies>

MANTRA - Free access and resources to dual language library books.

- <https://uk.mantralingua.com/homereading>

Oxford Owl - Free access to on-line books for children aged 3-11.

- <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/library-page>

Children's Stories - Animated short stories to help children English with parents.

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/childrens-stories>

How to keep your child safe online!

These websites are recommendations only and content can change. Please make sure to safeguard your children by using 'parental controls' from your internet provider and on the device they are using. We recommend supervising them and regularly checking the search 'History'.

Resources on how to keep children safe online

• <https://www.childnet.com/resources/>

Teach younger children how to keep safe with the cartoon characters of the SMART Crew.

• <https://www.childnet.com/resources/the-adventures-of-kara-winston-and-the-smart-crew>

Useful guides specifically about keeping Looked After Children safe online. There is also a section on responding to behaviours/warning signs in an appropriate manner

• <https://www.internetmatters.org/inclusive-digital-safety/>

Recipes to make together

Gloop:

You will need:

500g plain
flour

500g table
salt

250mls
warm water

What to do:

Place the cornflour into a large container and place a few drops of colouring into the centre. Have the water ready for your child to pour into the container.



Playdough:

You will need:

250g plain flour

50g salt

140ml water

2 tablespoons of oil (baby or cooking)

Food colouring

What to do:

Mix it together, allow to cool and have fun! You can add smells – peppermint, vanilla or rose. Add some spice like cinnamon or grate in some lemon zest. You can add glitter for some sparkle or rice / lentils for some texture. It's very versatile! Keep it in a freezer bag and it will stay soft...

Google 'Dough Disco' for all sorts of play dough fun.

Grab paper cases and fairy cake tins, rolling pins and biscuit cutters, make 3d models, find interesting items and textures to print with, create landscapes on upturned glass bowls...



Salt dough:

You will need:

500g plain
flour

500g table
salt

250mls
warm water

What to do:

Mix the flour and salt together, slowly add the water. When combined turn it out onto a lightly floured surface and knead for 5-10 minutes until smooth and elastic. This will keep for a couple of weeks in a freezer bag.

Once you have made your creation you can either leave it to dry naturally or bake it in the oven at 150C for around an hour. Then you can paint it!

There are loads of great recipes for playdough and salt dough on the internet. Experiment and have fun!



A simple biscuit recipe:

You will need:

200g unsalted butter

200g golden caster sugar

1 large egg

½ teaspoon vanilla extract or 1 lemon, zested

400g plain flour, plus extra for dusting

Baking parchment and baking trays/sheets

Biscuit cutters

What to do:

1. Heat the oven to 200C / 180C fan / gas mark 6

2. Whisk up the butter until soft and creamy. Beat in the sugar. Add the egg and vanilla or lemon. Add the flour to make a dough.

3. Split into sections and roll out to about 5mm thickness. Cut out the biscuits and put onto baking trays lined with baking parchment. Bake for around 7-10 minutes until the edges are just brown. Leave to cool.

You can make a really simple icing using just icing sugar and a little hot water. Add some food colouring if you like

