

Extra ideas for Learning at Home

Research shows children see greater success in school when they spend time talking, reading, playing, and creating with their families. There are so many incredible things you do every day that become amazing learning opportunities in your home and community. Continue spending time learning and playing together during this break from school.

Here are some ideas below:

Learning Routines

- If you are not at school, create a learning timetable and learning space with your child so you have a daily routine and space to complete activities and share learning experiences.
- Keep it simple, fun and provide many opportunities for movement, fresh air and brain breaks.

For lots of video clips and activities online don't forget about **Espresso**. There is a link to Espresso from our school website or go to <https://app.discoveryeducation.com/learn/signin>

We have access for all pupils at home. Username: student12165 Password: staples

Everyday Maths

Maths is all around us. Look for opportunities to talk about maths as a family and share maths stories, games and conversations.

- Household activities and chores have built in maths opportunities.
 - Have your child help set and clear the table. They can count, multiply, subtract and divide items based on their age.
 - Folding and sorting laundry provides an opportunity to sort and categorize for young learners and to talk about geometry with older students e.g. pairing and counting socks.
 - Menu & meal planning is a great time to talk about the cost of items and estimation.
 - Cooking together is an opportunity to read, follow directions, and practice fractions. Have older children double or half a recipe and estimate how much they need to feed the family. Have younger children weigh, measure and estimate.
- When driving, on the bus, or train talk about how far you are going, how much time it will take to get there, count things, ask silly questions like "would it take longer for us, a giraffe or a cheetah to get there, etc.
- Play card, dice or board games.
- Create a scavenger hunt. Look for shapes or have fun using household objects to create maths equations and maths puzzles.
- Work on a puzzle together e.g. sudoku, crossnumbers etc.
- Use places like the supermarket to compare prices.
- Challenge each other by creating word problems and sharing how you would solve them.
- Tell maths stories and include things your child is interested in.

Reading and Storytelling

The key thing is to keep the children **reading**. Sustained reading for any period of school absence should help to ensure that children don't fall behind and it is something that can be reasonably and easily supported by adults who may be at home too.

Find ways to make reading and storytelling an adventure everyday. Make it special and enjoyable.

- Have your child find special places to read. Make forts, read while having a snack, pretend you are in different countries and read with a new accent.

- If your child is a beginning or early reader take turns reading with them with some of these strategies: **My Turn Your Turn** where you take turns reading a paragraph or page. **Choral Reading** where you read at the same time, **Echo Reading** where you read first and your child echoes the same sentence or paragraph you just read. **Act It Out** where you act out the story together or pretend to be characters in the story and read the lines.
- Tell stories together. They can be family stories, stories from when you or they were young, stories you heard when you were a child, build stories together by taking turns coming up with one word or one sentence and passing to the next person.
- Listen to stories or educational podcasts. Free e-books are available at <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>
- Watch a family movie and talk about the characters, setting, plot. What made it a good story? Did anything in the story remind you of something in your family or life?
- For our children who are still learning phonics one of the websites we use in school is currently free www.phonicsplay.co.uk Username: march20 Password: home The app Teach your Monster How To Read is currently free to download.
- Keep your reading diary or journal (KS2) up to date.



Writing Together

Look for opportunities to write and draw together.

- Keep a family journal or diary.
- Write a story together.
- Create a comic together.
- Write a thank you note.
- Create a play.
- Write a family story or family history after interviewing your family members.
- Create a book all about me and my family.
- Create a timeline about your family.
- Caption and label photographs or drawings.
- Write a poem for someone in your family.
- Create a persuasive presentation on something you care about.
- Talk about your family values and make a family logo or coat of arms together.
- Talk about your Heroes. Draw a picture and tell the story about why they are a hero to you.

Games to Play

Enjoy oral language and vocabulary games during downtime or while running errands.

- **I Spy** is a game where one person describes something they spy and the other person tries to guess what it is. Make the descriptions as vivid as possible.
- **I'm Thinking Of** is a similar game but the players can describe anything they are thinking of to other players or can describe things in an agreed upon category like numbers. For example, I'm thinking of a number that is bigger than 10 and smaller than 12. I'm thinking of a shape that looks like a snake.
- Take turns thinking of rhyming words
- Make a tongue twister out of your names like "Sweet **Sally Sue** Sat Sipping Cinnamon Soda on a Saturday."
- Look up prefixes and suffixes and take turns thinking of words that use them like **aqua**: **aquamarine**, **aqueduct**, **aquatic...ing**, **going**, **liking**, **feeling**, **tricking**, **tickling**.

- Think of favorite games from your childhood and play with your child (Hunt the thimble, Catch the Dragon's Tail, Bingo, Memory games)
- Get moving: Do yoga together, play red light green light, simon says, freeze dance, make an obstacle course or play follow the leader.
- Design a game together.

Enjoy the Arts Together

Take time to listen to music and enjoy arts and crafts together.

- Listen to your favourite music and music you don't like. Talk about why. Try closing your eyes together and see what images come to mind when a song is playing.
- Find some household objects eg. boxes, pots, pans etc to turn into an orchestra and compose a tune or rhythm. You could play along to your favourite music.
- Get moving by dancing together, playing freeze dance or musical chairs.
- Write a song about your family together. Make it silly or poetic and perform for your family.
- Draw together – still life, cartoons, observational drawings, portraits.
- Create and build with recycled materials.
- Look-up how to create something you are curious about like a paper airplane, magical creature house and follow the instructions etc.

Science

- Talk about our senses and how they help us understand the world, how we use them to look for evidence, describe the world around us, make words come to life when we write etc.
- Explore what you are curious about. How can you find information about it? What would you like to learn? Could you make a fact-file or information book about it?
- Plan and try a scientific experiment



together. <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/experiments.html>

- Plant some seeds in a pot or in your garden and care for them.
- Go on a bug hunt in the garden. Take photos and keep a record of what you find.
- Recycle and Re-use materials in your home.

Stay Active

When kids are active, their bodies can do the things they want and need them to do. Regular exercise provides these benefits: strong muscles and bones, healthy weight, decreased risk of developing type 2 diabetes, better sleep, a better outlook on life. Physically active kids also are more likely to be motivated, focused, and successful and mastering physical skills builds confidence at every age.

Stay active both indoors and out regularly throughout the day

- Complete workouts on-line e.g. Go Noodle <https://www.gonoodle.com/> BBC Super movers <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers>
- Create your own exercise workouts, circuit training or fitness routines.
- Dance together to your favourite music – Disco time.
- Miss Groves has set up a youtube channel 'Groove with Miss Groves' Here is the link to her first video if you'd like to dance along with her <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sLHUUenNKY>

Outdoor Activity Suggestions

For ideas go to: <https://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2012/03/50-simple-outdoor-activities-for-kids.html>

More at: <https://www.verywellfamily.com/outdoor-family-activities-2764716>

Geography

- Keep a daily weather log or be a weatherperson by videoing a weather report from your garden or outside space.
- Take a photo or draw a picture of your garden or outside space weekly and record how it changes from winter to springtime.
- Draw a compass with 4 or 8 points on, then while sitting at your learning table draw what you can see for each point of the compass around you ie the window is to the north.
- Sketch a simple map of the rooms in your home.
- Plan a route to the supermarket using street names and labeling any buildings of significance ie Loughton tube or the police station, adding symbols and keys.
- Design a leaflet/poster advertising Loughton and the local area.
- Keep a diary of any local or world environmental changes they see or hear about from the news.
- Think of a place that they've been to on holiday and try to find out more about that country/region ie where it is in the world or UK, currency, physical features, capital city, what is the time zone? How is it similar Loughton and how is it different?
- BBC Bitesize website – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>
KS1 Pirate Bunnies around the world
KS2 Geography – 5 different Geography skills/knowledge games

Computing

- Practise your typing skills BBC Dance Mat Typing
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/z3c6tfr>
<https://www.doorwayonline.org.uk/typing/>
- Coding and computer programming <https://studio.code.org/courses>
Espresso Coding activities on Espresso