

Home learning activities:



Easter

Doves: 3 months -20 months.

- Easter egg water play: Fill a large bowl / bucket with water. Add blue food colouring and an essence eg peppermint or vanilla etc. Using plastic eggs and cups play alongside your child scooping and pouring water. Notice the smell and swirling colour. Respond to and mimic your child's movements/ vocalisations



Learning objective: To learn that their voice and actions have an effect on others.

- Easter tuff tray: Use a shallow box or tray and fill with straw, grass, chicks, plastic eggs and Easter animals hidden inside. How do they explore the tray? What grasp do they use to pick up objects? Can they pass the objects between hands?



Learning objective: To explore new activities and situations and begin to build confidence.

- Bubble wrap painting: Cut pieces of bubble wrap (or other textured material) into small pieces and dip into paint. Press the bubble wrap on to paper to make a print. How do they react to the feeling of paint, material etc? Extend by naming colours and textures e.g. lumpy, wet, bumpy, pop.



Learning objective: To explore the sensory experience of making marks with paint.

Doves continued



- Baby yoga/massage

Lay your baby on the floor and gently stretch their arms up to the ceiling and then their legs. Search Youtube for some simple yoga moves for you and your baby. We use Cosmic kids yoga <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JI01thiHYI>

for our older children.

Learning objective: To develop balance and coordination whilst enjoying a sense of wellbeing and bonding time with a trusted adult.

- Imaginative farm play: Put soil, carrots, plant pots and spades into a tray. Dig up the carrots to feed to the rabbits (use toy rabbits or you could pretend to be a rabbit!) Talk through what is happening “oh you’re digging the carrots”, “pulling the carrots” etc.



Learning objective: To begin to engage in pretend play with toys.

Starlings: 16 months-26 months

Puzzles: Work together to complete an inset puzzle ie puzzles where you have to drop the piece into the indented space. Take turns to put in each piece “Your turn, my turn.” Use vocabulary like twist, turn and rotate to find the correct place. Extend by asking your child to tell you what to do. Then introduce simple jigsaws. How does your child manipulate them to connect the pieces together?



Learning objective: To attempt to manipulate the pieces into place and try alternative methods.

Starlings continued



- Easter card: Dip flavoured teabags into water and use them to paint on paper. What colours can they see? What marks can they make? Once it has dried turn it into an Easter card for a family member. Extend this activity by mixing two colours together



Learning objective: Notice the connection between their movements and marks left behind.

- Make a fat cake for birds: Visit this link for a recipe and instructions.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/recipes/make-a-fat-cake-for-birds>



Let your child select which food ingredients to add from whatever is available. Once you have made your mixture hang it in the garden and see who comes to visit.

Learning objective: To show care for nature and to explore combining the ingredients together to create a different texture.

- Build Humpty Dumpty's wall: How high can you build your wall? Count the bricks as your child places them on the structure. Extend this activity by taking turns to place a brick each. Collect a variety of items and see which ones can balance on the top. Can you make the wall wider? Does this help?



Learning objective: To balance blocks to build a tower.



- Printing a spring picture: Print with natural objects dipped in paint to make a spring picture e.g. leaves, flowers, grass, fruit and vegetables. Talk about what is growing outside and any changes you can see at spring time. Are there any vegetables/herbs growing?

Learning objective: To recognise features of their environment and explore textures.

Kingfisher/ Fun Focus: 2—3 years.

- **Streamers:** Use a paper cup or empty yoghurt pot. Decorate using strips of paper, ribbon etc . Take it outside (or into the longest room in your house) and watch what happens when you run! Can you use your arms to draw circles and lines in the air.



Learning objective: To develop your gross motor muscles by using big movements.



- **Playdough:** Make playdough together. Measure, pour & mix the ingredients. Encourage your child to make a hot cross bun. What shape does it need to be? How can you roll out the cross to go on top?

Recipe: 1 cup of flour, 1/3 cup of salt, ½ cup of water, 2 teaspoons of oil (optional 3 drops food colouring). Keep in fridge in air tight container.

Learning objective: To strengthen muscles in hands and arms by pouring and mixing ingredients then manipulating dough in different ways.

- **Planting:** Plant cress or herbs together. Use soil in a small cup or pot to sow your seeds. Discuss where to place it and what it may need. Watch how it grows over the coming days/ weeks. Extend this activity by having several pots each missing one different condition e.g. one doesn't have a seed, one lacks soils, one is kept in the dark (in a cupboard), one isn't watered. Can they guess what might happen? Watch and see if they are right.



Learning outcome: To learn about nature and changes over time.

Kingfishers continued.



- Imaginative play:

Use a tray filled with grass, wooden blocks and animals. Play imaginatively together. Does your child offer a narrative to their play? Talk through what you are doing to give them cues to play along with you and put their own ideas forward.

Learning objective: To engage in imaginative play and build stories around their toys.

- Decorating paper eggs: Draw a large oval on A4 paper and encourage your child to decorate the 'egg' using felts, pencils or crayons. What colours or patterns are used? Is the whole egg shape covered so no white is left?



Use child sized scissors to cut out the egg. How do they hold the scissors? Encourage thumb on the top. Talk about holding and using scissors safely. Extend this activity by drawing lines and zigzags for your child to cut along.

Learning objective: To show control over tools and mark making resources and understand the need for safety.

Pre-School: 3+ years.

- Egg and spoon race: Balance a hard boiled egg or stone on a spoon and have a race. Who can keep it on the spoon the longest? Set a start and finish line and be clear of the rules e.g. "If it falls off you need to stop and pick it up." Is it a walking or running race? Extend the activity by setting out obstacles to go around/ over.



Learning objective: To show control over objects and follow rules set out. (Don't always let your child win the race.)

Preschool continued.

- Chocolate shredded wheat cakes:

Wash your hands and put on an apron—ask your child why?

Follow the link to a recipe <https://www.nestle-cereals.com/uk/en/recipes-tips/recipes/shredded-wheat-easter-nests> Examine the ingredients and



describe the chocolate as 'solid'. Melt the chocolate and talk about how it has changed and why. *Please note that mini eggs can be a choking hazard so you may wish to replace them with an alternative decorative item.*

Extend this by challenging your child to make the runny, melted chocolate solid again.

Learning objective: To investigate changes that occur when ingredients are heated or cooled.

- Easter egg hunt: Hide toy or paper eggs around the house / garden and give your child a map to follow. What can they recognise eg patio, shed, lawn? Can they find all the eggs? Extend this activity by getting your child to make a map for you to follow or giving them verbal clues e.g. 5 steps to the left... look on/ under etc.

Learning objective: To understand and use positional language. To decipher marks on paper and make their own.



Preschool continued



- Paint bags:

Fill 1/4 of a thick sandwich bag with paint and tape the ends. On the outside of the bag use your fingers to 'squidge' and make marks in the paint. Draw an egg shape and decorate with different marks and patterns.

Extend this activity by putting 2 prime colours in the same bag. Ask what they think will happen? Can they test their ideas? What other marks can they make e.g. letters, shapes etc.?

Learning objective: Explore different ways of making marks and what happens when colours are mixed

- Chick sorting:

Sort chicks (toys or pictures) into nests eg cake cases. Encourage your child to physically pick up each chick and count out loud as they place it in a nest. Discuss which nest has more/less. Can they put the same number of chicks into each nest? Extend this activity by working out simple sums e.g. add the number of chicks in each nest together, what is the total? What is the total number of chicks in 2 nests? What happens to the total if some fly away?



Phonic activities are sent in a separate attachment.