



Learning and Growing Together
in Faith and Friendship

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

Member of the Newman Catholic Collegiate

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To the Parents/Carers of pre-school children,

We hope you are all ok and are looking forward to some new challenges. If your child is getting ready for school in September, keep practising the previous activities and make sure you are having fun.

- Encourage independence in dressing and undressing, ready for when your child does PE.
- Continue practising putting their coat on and off by themselves and if you have mastered that, work on zipping the coat up or fastening buttons, which are great for fine motor skills.
- Provide plenty of opportunities for mark-making using anything you have at home: pens, chalks, paints, pencils- encouraging your child to pinch the pencil or crayon. Mark-making is important as this is where the journey starts in being able to learn to write. Children will develop many skills to contribute to early literacy skills by providing lots of mark-making opportunities throughout this journey. If you are feeling brave, shaving foam on a tray is great for mark-making using your fingers and smells good too!
- Go outside and listen. What you can hear? What can you see? Can you smell anything? Look for mini-beasts- don't forget to peek under stones.
- Play throw and catch. Can you roll and kick a ball to your parent/carer? Count how many times you can do this and talk about what you are doing.
- Using what you have at home- maybe a large paintbrush or roller and a shallow tray or cup of water for outdoor water painting (never leave a child unsupervised with water). This is a great fun way of mark-making, drawing circles and lines or a person. Another idea which they love is painting in between the cement of your bricks on a wall with water, which is great for hand-eye coordination and holding tools correctly encouraging hand dominance.
- Have fun role playing at home with dolls or teddies, have a teddy bears' picnic at lunchtime and even help with buttering the bread to make your own sandwiches or go on a bear hunt in your garden. Using your empty food boxes, make your own shop, talking about the food, such as where it's grown- it's amazing how they think potatoes grow on trees! This is a great way to develop and extend vocabulary. The brain needs exercise to grow and develop and there's no better way to do this than through play.

We are not sending worksheets home as playing during this stage of your child's development is an integral part of your child's Early Years Foundation Stage and supports their learning journey too. Young children can develop many skills through the power of play, developing language skills, emotions, creativity social skills and imagination.

Have fun learning together at home!

Mrs Tabbenor, Miss Stanyer and Miss Gazey.

