



St Joseph's Catholic Academy  
Member of the Newman Catholic Collegiate

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Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Children,

We hope you had a lovely week last week learning all about the Three Little Pigs and that you learnt some new words to describe the little pigs, the big bad wolf and the three different houses. Stories are such an important way of learning with your children, so please read daily with them, particularly traditional tales and stories with lovely, colourful illustrations so that you can talk about the pictures together too.

Lots of learning can take place with everyday objects that you have around your home and garden, so this will be the focus this week. We would like you to put away technology and really focus on talking to your child and interacting with them this week, particularly on verbs (doing/ action words). The following activities have come from our partners at Stoke Speaks Out, who are a team of Early Years experts that we work closely with in school to ensure the best Early Years provision for our children. They have sent us some super ideas for simple home-learning that will extend children's language and communication, which we thought would be great to try at home this week.

1. **'Paint'** with brushes- when in school, our children love nothing more in the outdoor area than painting with just water and different types of brushes- on walls, play equipment, decking, etc. No mess but a brilliant activity for early mark-making and developing fine motor skills. Or try this activity below for a fun alternative:

**Paint with brushes**

**Can you find:**

- Natural materials such as leaves, twigs.
- Sellotape
- Mud!

**Benefits for children**

Experiencing the different patterns which are created by using different materials.

They will experience the different smells the materials have as they use them.

**What to do:**

1. Check the twigs for jagged edges/splinters, remove and smooth if necessary.
2. The twig is the 'paintbrush' handle. Using sellotape attach the natural materials to the end.
3. Create different painting effects by using different materials or increasing/decreasing the number of leaves etc. used.

**Next steps**

To paint with colours add powder paint to the mud or use ordinary paint.

Language / words to use to support the activity

- Paint
- Draw
- Splash
- Splat
- Splodge
- Squirt
- Stick
- Swirl
- Swish
- Print
- Dab
- Dip
- Snap
- Colour in
- What can you smell?
- What can you see?
- What can you feel?



**2. Throwing and catching-** This activity is great for hand-eye co-ordination and physical development. You can have plenty of fun with an old pair of tights/ socks and some tissue paper! The best things in life really are free, and look at the language you can get from making your own home-made ball and playing with it! Don't forgot that throwing and catching is the perfect opportunity for counting as well.

**Catch it if you can**

**Can you find:**

- A range of different filling materials e.g. tissue or paper towel
- Sticky tapes
- Pair of old tights or socks
- Scissors

**What to do:**

1. Ask your child to roll some tissue into a ball shape.
2. If using a pair of tights, cut off the leg and foot and knot at one end.
3. Get your child to push the ball of tissue into a sock or knotted tight.
4. Make a knot above the ball.
5. With your child practise some throwing and catching skills with each other.

**Next steps**

- Use different size socks to change the size of ball.
- Use the ball in different games e.g. skittles.
- Throw the ball at a target e.g. into a hoop, into a bucket.

**Benefits for children**

To develop throwing/catching skills, hand/eye co-ordination.



Language / words to use to support the activity

Roll  
Fill  
Swing  
Hit  
Tap  
Throw  
Catch  
Tie  
Push  
Stretch  
Reach  
Hard, soft  
Up, down  
Turn  
Long, short

**3. Shadows-** the spring sunshine is the perfect time to investigate shadows, and this 'Shadow Fun' activity helps to teach children about shadows whilst getting their daily exercise. You can also discuss all of the action words that you are doing together- a great 3-in-1 learning activity!



**Shadow fun**

**How to...**

Find your shadow outside or make a shadow with a light at home.

Make silly moves

- Jump
- Dance
- Wave
- Star jump
- Walk
- Sit

Be a robot!

Ask your child to copy and guess what you are doing from your shadow!

**Talk about it**

- Give your child time to guess what you are doing
- Then talk about what you are doing
- Encourage your child to tell you what to do next
- Talk about how you do the action – jumping high, waving fast, walking slowly

**Speak Out!**




**4. Blankets-** so much fun and learning can take place with a simple blanket or bed sheet. You can make a den, use it as a picnic blanket, roll/ bounce a ball on it or just investigate its properties using the prompts to the right:



**Blanket time**

**How to...**

- Find a blanket or sheet.
- Hold the blanket with your child.
- Do actions with the blanket together!
  - Shake it
  - Pull it
  - Roll it
  - Wave it
  - Lift it
- Put a toy under the blanket and hide it!

**Talk about it**

- Talk about what you are doing – say the word as you do it.
- Give your child choices such as 'shall we shake or lift up the blanket?'
- Sing silly songs, e.g. 'shake, shake, shake the blanket... stop!'
- Play ready steady go – ready steady... wave!

**Specialist Goal**

**5. Role Play-** such a powerful way for children to learn new skills and language. You can role play being at the doctors with 'poorly' dolls, taking toy cars to the 'garage' and use tools to fix it, create a supermarket in your kitchen or a car wash in the garden, a pirate ship out of a cardboard box and kitchen roll, take cuddly toys to the vets- even role playing house in the kitchen is such an easy way to engage your child in new words and ideas. You don't need dressing up clothes- just ordinary household objects can give your child hours of fun.



**Let's pretend**

**How to...**

- Join in pretend or imaginary play with your child.
- It can be anything your child enjoys, from tea parties with teddies to playing doctors or firefighters.
- Help your child by showing them new ideas for their play, such as how the doctor takes a temperature or how the firefighter sprays water.

**Talk about it**

- Use verbs or action words to talk about what you and your child are doing, for example:
  - "the fireman sprays water and soaks everything!" or
  - "teddy's just sipping his tea because it's very hot!" or
  - "you could use the thermometer to measure my temperature"

**Specialist Goal**

We hope you have a fun and busy week exploring everyday objects in the home this week. Don't forget that the most important thing to do is to talk to and play with your child, and expose them to as much new language as you can, as this is how they learn about the world around them.

If you have any other ideas, please let us know- we would love to hear them!

Take care,

Mrs Tabbenor, Miss Stanyer and Miss Gazey.