



Hi again !!

This letter has lots of ideas for your child in preparation for school and also an update from Oxfordshires' Health Visiting Team, which they sent today, which has lots of attachments for Wellbeing and Mental Health. It is important to remember Health Visitors are experts in working with families with Children under the age of 5, and as a setting we are able to have a 3 way meeting with them and you, should you feel it would help you in any way, so please do let me know if I can arrange this with/ for you, or you can contact them directly. I am incredibly conscious you may be feeling worried and anxious especially now we have re-opened for some families, and I really don't want you to feel, we have deserted you, or there is a two tier system.

We have been pleasantly surprised at how well the children that returned have adapted to the "New" ways of working and I am pretty certain all the children will adapt equally well when they start school, or return to preschool. You are all great parents, you really know your children and you do not need to worry about them starting school. Talking to North Hinksey School on Tuesday they are thinking of ways to best support the transition and Mrs Claxton and I are working together to find a way you can catch up with her. Currently she is now teaching 5 days a week, with the children in reception that have returned to school as a priority group, but please bear with us. I believe letters will be coming out to you soon, from schools, we may be delivering them so watch this space!

General Activity ideas and web links- Curtesy of Ali for you!

This might be useful if you can access YouTube;

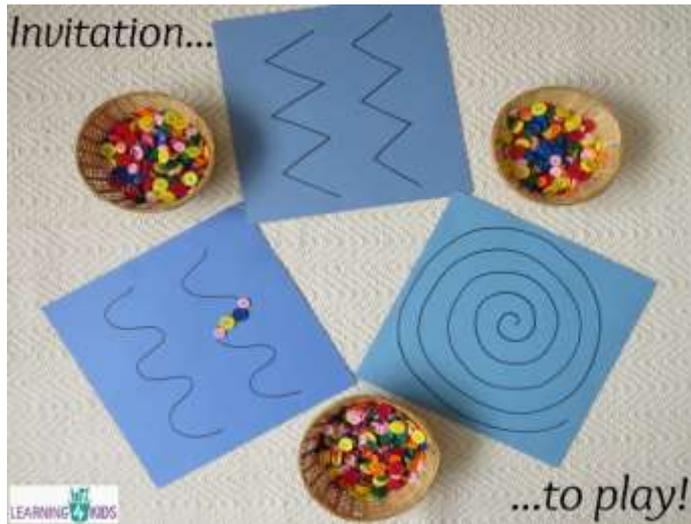
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjo66ov_IeIINeT2XSU5VA short story/activity clips

<https://abcdoes.com/home-learning/> lots of easy ideas here, also has some blogs regarding boys writing etc.....

<https://abcdoes.com/abc-does-a-blog/2020/03/31/abc-does-a-story-silly-billy-by-anthony-browne/> sweet little story about a worried little boy who made some worry dolls

Fine motor activities- This is the stage our Preschool children will be in terms of writing- Often parents worry their child is not writing or holding a pencil correctly but there is so much more children must master before this! Much of it is physical too, so anything that develops muscles will support fine motor skills. This week we made pastry at preschool and them "Jam Pasties" and this is fantastic activity to squeeze those muscles and you get to eat them!

<http://mamaot.com/fine-motor-activities-using-household-items/> This link is useful for explaining more about fine motor muscles



Draw simple shapes, numbers, letters of name, and patterns on paper or card. Use buttons, beads, small pasta, rice grains. Cover the lines, using thumb and fore finger (like a pinch grip) to pick up individual items. You can also tear small pieces of paper and roll into small balls between thumb and fore finger which is also good for strengthening the finger muscles in prep for writing.

Take some photos of finished sheets to share or glue pieces on.

This helps hand and eye co-ordination...



Use string, ribbon, wool, sticks, and pipe cleaners. Thread with beads, cheerio's, pasta tubes of different sizes or make shapes from card and make a hole in the middle. You can also cut out a large shape and use a hole punch to make holes around the edge to thread through string, wool

Cut out or find pictures of favourite characters to thread etc....





Your child may be interested in Numbers and Number recognition.. when you're out walking look for numbers and just talk about what you see!

Speech and language web links and activities

These are some simple fun games which help develop language, build confidence and raise self-esteem and are FUN!!

Describing and guessing games

There are lots of games that involve describing and guessing but here are a couple of specific ideas: 1) choose some objects with the children, put them in a bag and get the children to take turns feeling and describing them while the others guess what they are; 2) play 'What am I?', in which you describe something and the children work out what it is (eg "I'm red and made of metal, I stand on the pavement and you put letters in me"). Also games of "Eye spy" and emphasise the letter it begins with. You can add a little description clues to help if needed.

Memory game/Kim's game

Place a few different objects on a tray, some beginning with letters that your child may struggle to say/pronounce. Talk about each object, use language to describe it, heavy/light, rough/smooth etc..... say the name of the object, emphasising the correct pronunciation. Cover the objects with a cloth and ask child to close eyes, remove an object and see if child can recall which one is missing and describe it. Replace and repeat with a different object on the tray. Add more objects to increase challenge if needed and take turns with child.

Role-play and pretending games

This can be as elaborate or simple as you like; you could get the children to dress up as characters and act out a play (using a made-up plot, or perhaps one from a book), or you



could encourage them to use puppets to tell a story, or just stimulate some straightforward role-play by introducing a few props.

Read books using props ie; 3 bears, bowls, spoons etc... go on a Bear Hunt.....

Use props to go with well known songs and rhymes

Early Phonics

This is a document that is really useful for introducing early phonics, it covers listening and attention etc... It's big but you only really concentrate on the first couple of aspects and the games are quite easy and fun. I've put the link to the whole document just so you can see what it's about. We use it at preschool but start at phase 1 and slowly build up the aspects as appropriate. Aspect 7 is really more reception so don't worry about that, just do a few of the games to support listening and attention, taking turns, describing etc to further support language development.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190599/Letters_and_Sounds_-_DFES-00281-2007.pdf

This is a letter from Health visiting teams



Wellbeing Resources
for Families of young



Final Covid Wellbeing
Pack (1)parents.docx

Finally...

It would be really, really lovely if some or all of you would like to send us any drawings, children's comments, letters to their friends and perhaps they'll get a reply from someone in our setting? If you requested to be added to the contact list you will be emailed separately with a list of parents details of those that wanted to take part. If anyone has forgotten to give permission but would like to join I can always send an updated one next week. You are not alone, we are still a community!

Ruth x