



Parteen National School
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Nationwide School Closure Due to Corona Virus

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Here are some suggested activities for Junior and Senior Infants to support learning during the school closure:

Suggestions for developing Sight words, Phonological awareness at home:

- Magnetic letters – Use to make words on magnetic white board. Use the letters to make words from word lists attached. Talk about the first/middle/last sound. Make a rhyming word. E.g. s-a-t & p-a-t, s-i-n & p-i-n. (make letters out of paper / cardboard as an alternative)
Make a new word by changing one letter.e.g. c-a-t, r-a-t.
Write a tricky word (i.e. a word from word box). Cut up the letters and re assemble to make the word or use magnetic letters on white board.
- Always emphasise the left to right direction of words.
- Put up a new sight word a day on the fridge. Move them around regularly.
- Make sentences using words from word box. Practice words from your child's word box.
- Play: I spy, bingo, memory games (lay out four words, read them..take away a word, child opens eyes and identifies which word is missing).
- Look at the word, draw around its shape, talk about number of letters in the word, smaller words in the word (Here, He).
- Put words in sentences orally.
- Find words in books and in the environment (Magazines, sign posts). Picking out words they know in story books.
- Thinking up of different words that start with initial sound.
- Practice blending sounds with your child. Blending is a process of saying the individual sounds in a word and running them together to make the word: s-w-e-e-p, sweep. Every child needs to learn this technique, and it improves with practice.

- Practice nursery rhymes together.

Suggestions for developing mathematical skills:

- Count forwards and backwards regularly.
- Practice simple addition up to 5. Up to ten if you feel your child is able for it.
- Match counters to the numeral game.
- Number games and shape games.
- Wooden or plastic magnetic numbers. Practice putting numerals in the correct order on fridge or mini whiteboard. Ask “Find me 6?” “What number comes before/after 2?” etc.
- Setting the table. “How many places do we need?” “How many people will be sitting at the table?etc.”
- Sorting socks and gloves into pairs.
- Giving your child simple word problems to solve on car journeys e.g. “I’m thinking of a number more than 4 but less than 5. Guess my number?”, “I’m thinking of a number less than 8 but 1 more than 6. Guess my number?”, “If you can three apples and I gave you two more? How many would you have then?”, “If you had five cupcakes and you gave one to your friend. How many cupcakes would you have left?”, “ I have two long ears, four paws and a short, fluffy white tail. (Rabbit). What animal am I?”etc.

Suggestions for developing good handwriting skills:

- Ensure that your child is following the three p’s rule (correct posture, correct pencil grip, correct position). Sitting up straight with two feet on the ground, one hand holding the pencil & the other hand holding the page steady, use of correct tripod pencil grip. Pencil is held between ‘Tommy Thumb’ and ‘Peter Pointer’ with ‘Middle Man’ Tucked in the back.
- Trace letters in the air, on the table, on your back, on your child’s back.
- Trace letters in flour, dried rice, sand, shaving foam etc.
- Work on fine motor skills ...opportunities to play with play dough, wooden jig saws with wooden handles, lacing cards, threading beads, sorting out dried pasta or buttons into different groups. Give your child opportunities to cut and use a safety scissors.
- Handwriting: use letter strip attached.
- Write write write! (shopping lists, lists of animals, lists of rhyming words, play review, news etc.) Writing process starts with drawing pictures then moving on to labelling. Writing simple sentences comes after that.
- Write name in cursive.
- Say handwriting rhymes when forming letters in cursive style.

Suggestions for developing good reading comprehension skills:

- Read read read! Bedtime stories every night.

- Emphasize that each book has a cover, author, illustrator, title, blurb at the back which tells us what the story will be about.
- Emphasize that we read from left to right.
- Discuss the pictures in the book. Discuss new vocabulary from stories. Let your child hear you using new vocabulary in context.
- Practice simple prediction skills by getting your child to guess what the story might be about, using the pictures, words, or something they already know as clues.
- Practice making connections. Ask your child if the story reminds them about another story they have read? (make a connection with another book, character or author they have come across). If it reminds them of an experience they have had?(make a connection with themselves). Does it remind them of something else they have seen or come across (make a connection with something in the wider world).

Suggestions for Physical Play:

- Give your child plenty of opportunities to play using their imagination and problem solving skills.
- Outdoor play. Physical play including games like Hide and Seek, football, frisbee, hula hoops, skittles.
- Encourage and help your child to use climbing frames, slides and swings.
- Do puzzles and jig saws together.
- Join in as your child runs, hops over and crawls under or into objects, balances, cycles with or without stabilisers, and throws beanbags.
- Dance to different kinds of music: play musical statues or do the actions to songs like the Hokey pokey.
- Introduce your child to games you liked when you were a child like Ring-a-ring a Rosy, Red Rover, skipping with a rope and Hop-scotch.
- Help your child to make a hidey-hole or a den.

Suggestions for Creative Play:

- Let your child make things. Provide them with crayons, paints, chalk, different types of paper, glitter, glue, pencils, paper plates, old birthday cards, newspaper, ribbon, cardboard boxes, cellotape etc.
- Paint together.
- Make instruments and use them to sing some of your child's favourite songs. For e.g. a shoe-box, cellotape, kitchen roll tube and some elastic bands can make an amazing guitar!
- Collect lollipop sticks and make things from them.
- Give your child opportunities for pretend play for e.g. give them shoes, wallets, bags, jewellery, clothes and scarves, hats, old fabric, capes etc.. Join in the play with them. Follow your child's lead.

