

Things that you can do at home: 4

There is absolutely no pressure to do these activities. These are on offer if you are looking for things to do with your child. Not all things will be appropriate for all children; think about your child's stage of development before you attempt anything.

Cut simple different sized shapes with paper, such as squares, triangles, circles and rectangles to make a self portrait. Talk about the different shapes used and make some comparisons such as which is bigger? Which is the smallest? How many sides does this shape have?

Have a look at the self portraits from famous artists by searching 'self portraits famous artists' on Google images. Talk to your child about the features of the artists, the colours used, the hats and hair accessories. Which faces are happy, sad? Encourage your child to draw / paint his or her self portrait. Using a mirror helps. Can they draw /paint portraits of other family members? If there was a particular self portrait that your child liked, could they recreate that work of art.

Activity: Fruit Salad
Resources needed: Fruit you like to eat and have at home, mixing bowl, spoon, children's bread knife, chopping board. What you need to do: Get a chopping board and bread knife, start cutting your fruits in to whatever shape or size you want (just make sure they aren't too big). Your child can cut the fruit under your supervision. Start putting the cut up fruit into the mixing bowl. Once you have completed all the cutting of the fruit, mix the fruit together and you can also add in a little bit of orange juice so that the fruit does not change its color. Once you have finished mixing put it into a smaller bowl and enjoy!

Use some paper plates to draw any facial expressions your child feels during the day. Happy, sad, cross, excited. Allow your child to explain why and how we can carry on feeling happy/excited or what we can do better to not feel cross/sad. Decorate your paper plates with any colours or collage materials!

Make an easy rocket;stick two triangular shapes on either size of an empty bottle.Stick strips of yellow, red or orange paper at the bottom for the flames. Decorate bottle by painting(optional)

Have a mini picnic with your favourite snacks or fruit/veg. Work together to plan all the things that you need and let your child see you writing down the list of things. This helps children to see the importance of writing for a purpose. Together with your child, set up an area on the floor in your house/in the garden with a blanket and allow children to help set up cutlery and place food onto plates.

Make a floor book with different types of pictures of mini beasts that you might see around the house or print some pictures. You could also get your child to draw pictures of their mini beasts and you could take photographs of activities that they have completed in relation to the topic. One example could be to find out where a particular mini beast might live and even better if you can go out and try to find a living one! Speech bubbles can be added to reflect the children's comments. If your child makes a model, this could also be incorporated into the floor book, as well as adding textures. Parents can also contribute to the floor book and write what their child may say about the pictures they see and also encourage them to make marks. Your child can use their phonic knowledge when making marks or forming recognisable letters. A great culmination of this could be to build a small bug motel if you have an outdoor space that might attract mini beasts.

Sound Treasure Hunt- Look for as many things as you can that begin with a certain sound e.g. "b" "book", "bag", "box"- Gather objects or cut out images of things you can find. Try to find objects or images with the sounds "A", "S" and "T"

Collect some different sized boxes large,medium,small such as cereal ,toothpaste, shoe boxes etc and make sure you have a good collection. Allow your child to explore the boxes; what could they build? Can they place any inside the other? This will allow lots of opportunity for you to use mathematical language such as big ,small, no space, more space. See how many boxes will fit inside each other; allow them to estimate first and then check by counting. Talk about the shape of the boxes square,cuboid,rectangle, how many sides? What shape do you have around the home that resemble the boxes? Extend the activity by using the boxes to do junk modelling with.

Take a chopping board and place a variety of different textured food and objects, e.g, toast, raw rice, baked beans, jelly, shaving foam, sand, raisins, ice, mashed potatoes and cover it with a cling film. Then encourage your child to feel the texture. Begin a conversation about the different feelings, sensations and textures the different items have.