

Things that you can do at home: 6

The weather looks set to offer some great days this week again. Don't forget about last week's activities if you didn't get through them all. We hope you find some interest with this week's activities. Remember that there is no pressure to complete all these activities, rather they are here to give you some inspiration for helping your child's development.

Create a cosy book nook/corner. You might use a basket for your child to put today's books in (you can ask them to select a certain number each day so you can get some maths talk in as well), some cushions or a comfy chair and your child's favourite teddy bear. You might even build a den together to read books in. Let your child spend some time looking at these chosen books independently and then you can spend some time reading to them. You could even create a list of the books in the book nook and your child ticks them off once they have been read.

Ask your child to read a book to you! Check that they hold the book the right way up and are looking at the pages from left to right. We aren't looking for them to read the book word for word; they may remember some words. The focus is on emulating the experience and this will provide your child with inspiration. Praise their efforts!

Can you create a Rainbow Fish? To garner interest you could show your child the story *The Rainbow Fish* read out here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9mryuEKkKc>

Draw an outline of a fish on a piece of paper. Have prepared some small pieces of scrap paper (different colours, textures, sheen) and work with your child to glue the pieces onto the fish to create a Rainbow Fish collage.

Identifying sets of numbers. Set up a few different areas on the floor and put a number on each of the spaces (start up to 5 and then extend depending on your child's ability). Get your child to put the correct amount of a set of toys in each of the areas. Three teddys corresponding to the number 3. Four cars corresponding to the number 4 and so on.

Play a shape related 'I Spy'. With this we are thinking about the characteristics of those shapes rather than the shapes themselves (if this is too difficult for your child, please don't worry, just revert back to the shapes). Place a selection of different shaped everyday items you have in your house in front of your child. 'I Spy with my little eye, something that is curved / has corners / six sides / pointy / etc. This will help your child understand the characteristics of shapes.

Ask your child to draw a picture - get them to talk about the marks they have made. Make this a regular occurrence. You could even write down what they said in order to help empower their voice and see it transformed into the written word.

If you have a big box lying around the house and an outdoor space, let your child paint the box however they want. If it's a particularly big box, they might want to complete the task over a few days.

When you are out for your daily exercise, why not find a comfortable spot to lay down on the grass and do some cloud watching. What shapes can you see? What are the shapes doing? Can you make a story out of the shapes?

If you can't get outside, how about you and your child draw a picture of the nature they see outside the window. You could even draw a picture of a window before handing the paper to your child to give your child the focus and the frame for the picture.

Can you make some ice cubes with your child? You can go and find some interesting things to put inside the ice cubes for added interest; flowers, leaves, a small stick, blades of grass etc. Once they have set, your child can spend some time playing with them, making an igloo, an icehouse or they could even put them outside in the garden and check back on them to see how they are melting. You could also fill the cubes with berries or small pieces of fruit and then they could even eat the ice-cubes.

Cress seeds are perfect for teaching children about growing plants. You can use empty egg cartons, filled with soil and sprinkle the seeds on top. Over the weeks your children can check the progress and take time to water and tend to the plants. Once grown, you could eat the cress and your child can see the importance of agriculture and nature.