

# Things that you can do at home: 8

*Here we have some more activities for you to try at home. Remember, there is no pressure to do any of these activities but we want to make sure you've got some ideas of things you can do! Play and investigation are so important to children's learning; it really is the best way for children to learn.*

With your child, sort the pots and pans in your kitchen by size and shape. Match the lids to the pots. Use wooden spoons to pretend that you are mixing or pretend cooking. You could use spoons as drumsticks to make some music. You could add other kitchen items such as potato mashers and measuring spoons. Try adding balls or large marbles (if not a choking risk for your child) to the pots so they can experiment with rolling and making sounds. Your child may want to help you put the pots and pans back in the cupboard.

This is a great song about learning about the name and order of the planets:

<https://youtu.be/ZHAqT4hXnMw> Spend some time talking about the moon. Can you pretend to walk on the moon? Can you draw a picture of the planets? Can you make some models of the planets? Can you remember the order of the planets?

Can you make some of your own nature bubble wands? Have a hunt around outside for some twigs and using some string you can make your own bubble wands. Make an easy bubble solution using dishwashing liquid and water and have fun making bubbles.

Do you have some pebbles at home or find some on your travels? If you can, why don't you spend time decorating some any way that you want to. Use lots of exciting, bright colours that would really stand out. The next time you are out and about, why not place them in amongst nature for others to find and admire your artwork!

Make a story telling box! Collect some items that you could put in the box - 5 or 6 things should suffice. Before you share the box with your child, ask them what kinds of things might be inside the box. Curiosity and guesswork are always lots of fun! Next, let your child open the box and ask them what kind of story could we make with the objects in the box. Play around with some ideas and write down your thoughts. You could talk about characters - who is the main character and what do they look like and how do they talk. Just guide your child, and let them come up with the ideas, however silly they are.

Will it dissolve or not? Talk to your child about what it means for something to dissolve. This activity teaches children about solubility, specifically whether a given substance will dissolve in water. You'll need several small, transparent water containers (e.g. plastic or glass cups) and a range of substances to test (e.g. sugar, oil, salt, food colouring, rice, flour, vitamin tablets). Before dropping each substance into a cup ask the children to guess whether it will dissolve or not.

If you have some paper plates in the house (so many wonderful craft uses for paper plates) can you make a paper plate fish? Use the plate for the main body for the fish; the eyes, the mouth, the fins, the scales. Don't worry if you don't have fancy things to stick onto you, you can use markers or pencil to design your fish. Make a fan of by folding paper and stick it to the back of the paper plate. Now, can you go on an underwater adventure? Can you pretend you are under the sea?



Sensory eating. Cut up some different foods and put them in a plate or a bowl and cover them up. Blindfold your child so they can't see and place a small piece of one of the foods in their mouth and ask them to chew it and see if they can guess what the food is.

Your senses are heightened when you stop using one of your other senses. Maybe you could ask your child to blindfold you as well!

Watch a reading of the wonderful Julia Donaldson book *The Snail and the Whale*. Here is a link to a reading online: <https://youtu.be/x887mPO9X9c> Can you make your own models of a snail or a whale using things you have in the house? Can you reenact the story? Can you talk about adventures you can go on? Where would you like to go? What would you like to do? Use this opportunity to find out more about snails or whales. You can make a fun fact card and get your child to draw a picture of one of the animals and you can write down the facts underneath it.

Explore the BBC Sounds website to see what is of interest to your child. There is a lot of free stuff for you to explore and enjoy with your child:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/category/childrens-entertainmentandcomedy>