

Things that you can do at home: 11

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.

Why not learn a new nursery rhyme? Here is a link to get the tune and then the lyrics to know the words. Use your fingers when you get to the numbers to help your child identify this important resource in the palm of their hand! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5Bs9xydba0>

Here is the beehive,
Where are the bees?
Hidden away where nobody sees.
Watch and you'll see them come out of the hive. One...two...three...four...five!
Buzz...buzz...buzz...buzz...buzz.

Here is the beehive,
Where are the bees?
Hidden away where nobody sees.
Watch and you'll see them land on the floor.
One...two...three...four!
Buzz...buzz...buzz...buzz.

Here is the beehive,
Where are the bees?
Hidden away where nobody sees.
Watch and you'll see them come out of the tree.
One...two...three! Buzz...buzz...buzz.

Here is the beehive, Where are the bees?
Hidden away where nobody sees.
Watch and you'll see them come out of the hive. One...two...three...four...five.
Buzz...buzz...buzz...buzz...buzz.
Bzzzzzzzz...they've all flown away!

Here's another one! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSC-gHBU_d0

Five little speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs - yum, yum
One jumped into the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Now there are four green speckled frogs - glub, glub.

Four little speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs - yum, yum
One jumped into the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Now there are three green speckled frogs - glub, glub.

Three little speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs - yum, yum
One jumped into the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Now there are two green speckled frogs - glub, glub.

Two little speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs - yum, yum
One jumped into the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Now there are one green speckled frogs- glub, glub.

One little speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs - yum, yum
One jumped into the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Now there are no green speckled frogs - glub, glub.

Can you make your own speckled frog? You could work together to create a lovely speckled frog to help bring the nursery rhyme to life. Make sure it is big enough to add some speckles on top of the frog (like buttons or dried beans). When you want to sing the song, pull out the speckled frog and put the five speckles on there and get your child to take the speckles off to illustrate the counting in the rhyme.

Go for a local walk down the street and ask your child to collect some leaves. Tell them that every leaf needs to be from a different type of plant so you can get a range of different leaves. This will help your child with categorisation. This should offer a lot of opportunity for talking as you determine what differences and what similarities the leaves have. Bring the leaves home and you can do some leaf rubbings by placing the leaf under some plain paper (not too thick) and using a crayon, rub over the top of the leaf to get the patterns of the leaf on the paper. Again, this is another great talking point.

If you need to head to the shops to buy some food and other items, make a point of making a shopping list and get your child to help. It's important for children to see how we use writing in everyday life (even more so when we rely on technology to write). Give your child a piece of paper and they could draw a picture of all the items on the shopping list or they could practice writing the first letter of each of the items (if they are indeed ready for handwriting).

Write a letter to someone that you love and miss! Sit down and work with your child on a letter or some pictures to send to people that you love. Again, don't force the handwriting unless your child is ready for it and is showing an interest; scribing what they say also makes an impression on your child. Make sure your child is completely involved in the task so this means that you may do this activity over a few days (you really don't want to force the activity). Once you have something that you're ready to send, show your child the process of sending mail to someone; let them see you address the envelope and ask them to put the contents inside the envelope. Let them affix the stamp and get them to put the letter in the postbox. Make sure you ask the recipient to send a letter back to your child through the post. There is nothing more exciting than to receive something addressed to you in the mail! Well, unless it's a bill!

Learn some different greetings in another language. The internet can not only help you with the words, but also the pronunciations. If you want to take this a step further you could focus on one language and every day build your vocabulary. Identify an object in your house and label it with the word in the language you are looking to explore. The label will be a reminder to you of what the word is and pretty soon you both will be added words to your vocabulary!

Treasure freeze. Take some of your child's small toys, like a little dinosaur or a troll and put them in a small container covered with water and freeze them. Use this activity to give your child an idea of hot, cold and frozen. Pose the question to your child; *I wonder how we can get the treasure out of the block of ice?* A great idea is to get a medicine dispenser syringe (like you would find in the box of calpol) and some warm water and take the activity outside or in the bath/shower to reduce the mess. Get your child to squirt warm water at the frozen ice block and talk to them about what is happening when the warm water hits the ice. Another way you could get to the treasure is to use spoons to chisel away at the ice like they are doing an excavation.

We have held off offering you a play dough activity since flour was so difficult to come across however it's now a lot easier to source. To make play dough 8 tbsp plain flour, 2 tbsp table salt, 60ml warm water, food colouring, 1 tbsp vegetable oil. Add the ingredients together until the dough is firm and stretchy. Now, even better than the play dough itself is to get your child to make the play dough themselves with your supervision, of course. A great opportunity to measuring, mixing and building gross and fine motor skills; not to mention the cause and effect exploration that occurs when you mix the ingredients together!