

Things that you can do at home: 12

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.

Have a hunt around the house for pairs of identical things, relatively the same or similar size; two teaspoons, a pair of socks, two small balls, two pieces of lego etc. Ask your child to play a matching game where they put the items into matching pairs. If this is too easy for them or you want to extend the activity, you could ask them to do it with a time limit to see how many they can find in two minutes or you could even do it blindfolded.

Do you know the BIG RED BUS?! Try this nursery rhyme with your child and make up some actions to go along with it. <https://youtu.be/Ks-M4Ns6Q6A>

Can you make a special magic potion? You can use a nature walk to collect ingredients for your magic potion and maybe some things you have in your home. Get a big container and a wooden spoon and get your child to add each ingredient to the potion. Write down the list of ingredients so your child can see you writing and give meaning to their words. Can you make up a magic spell to say whilst you're mixing your potion?

Try some of these wonderful action songs designed to get you and your child moving to music!
<https://www.letsplaykidsmusic.com/gross-motor-movement-songs/>

Make some time for mark making this week; any kind of mark making is good. Big sweeping marks like you would with a paintbrush painting an outside wall with water through to using a pencil to draw a picture. Let's get mark making!!!

Ask questions of your child when you are reading them a book. Encourage them to point to the title, the author, the illustrator. Remind them what all of these things are. Stop throughout reading and ask them what they think will happen next? (even if they know the book, it's good recall), who is their favourite character? What is your favourite part of the story? Can we think of a different ending to the story?

Can you play make-believe/role play? Why not make up an animal rescue centre. Use your child's soft toys as the animals and you can have bandages and you can even make up a register checklist of all the things you need to check on the animal. You could have a waiting room as well. Some things you might want to use: Soft toys, cushions or folded towels for beds Bandages perhaps cut out of an old unwanted tea towel, T-shirt or rag Plasters, pretend medicine and spoon.

Work out a missing number: Start with 5 counters on a surface. Count them together. Explain that the cup is going to catch some counters and the only way to free them is to say how many are under the cup. o Make a game of the cup hovering over and then 'catching' some counters. Can your child work out how many have been caught underneath using the number of counters remaining? - They may use number facts (3 still free, $3+2=5$ so 2 caught), counting on with fingers (3 free, so $4...5...=2$ under the cup) or guessing. o Repeat the game. Your child may become more strategic in their working out as they

play, or you can reduce the number of counters to help them. o You can repeat this game, changing the number of counters in play.

Check out this website that gives some ideas of 50 things you need to do before you are 5 years old!

<https://bradford.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!/50-things-to-do-before-youre-five>

Play with rhythm sticks. Use sticks from the garden, wooden spoons, lolly sticks, chop sticks or even just your hands. Use your sticks to tap out the syllables in words. For example, tap out your names - Rohan would have 2 taps; Farhana would have 3 taps. Make a collection of objects with varying number of syllables (cup, teddy, dinosaur). Get your child to then tap out the word as they say it (one tap per syllable). You can also use your rhythm sticks to tap along to your favourite objects.