

You did it!

You have reached the end of what will be known as the strangest academic year!

Who would have thought 2020 would bring with it such fear and uncertainty and I want to take a minute to say:



This will be your last home school support SEN letter and we are desperately looking forward to September when we can see your child again – in school, learning and having fun! 😊

For this final week, here a few ideas to keep them busy!

Red Light, Green Light

This game is great for listening skills and to get your child moving!

How To Play:

Play a game outside where you take turns starting to run by saying "go" and then say "stop" to freeze. If your child's listening skills are more advanced give directions such as "jump up and down until I say stop."

Read, Read, Read!

Ideas To Try

- Ask your child to point to pictures as you read
- Work on 2 step-directions - ask your child to point to a picture and then a second picture. For example, "Point to the dog and the house" or "Where is the boy and the car?"
- Ask some comprehension questions such as "who" and "what" after reading a page.

- Match the Alphabet

Draw the letters of the alphabet on cardboard and hand it to your child. Next, give him pictures of objects and ask him to identify them. Then, ask him to match the picture with the starting letter of the object.

Bubble Wrap Stomp Painting – Bubble wrap is so fun to play with, and this ups the fun level! If your child doesn't like the feel or sound of bubble wrap, consider alternatives, like paper towels!



Window painting with shaving cream

Grab a can of shaving cream and head outside (inside also works if you do not mind the clean up). To start, plop a good amount of shaving cream onto the window. If age-appropriate, you let your child take a turn at spraying it too. Together, practice writing letters, drawing pictures or just swirl your fingers around. Place some in their hands and have them press it to the window to experience different feelings. If inside, the sunlight shining through can create a different tactile experience. Bonus: you now have your very own window-washer! Have a towel ready and the cleanup for this one will be quick.

Missing Numbers

In a nutshell – Write number sequences on craft sticks and remember to leave some blanks in between. Next, you write the missing numbers on a bunch of clothes pins and give them out to your class. Now you're ready to let the kids use their fine motor skills and clip the pins on sticks. The best thing about this inexpensive early years maths activity is that you only create the props once and they're ready to be used as many times as you like.

What you need –

- Craft Sticks (colour or plain)
- Sharpies
- Clothes Pins

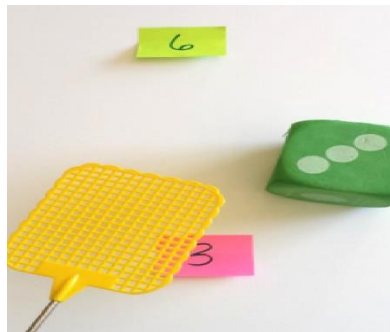


Smack It

In a nutshell – Prepare some sticky notes with various numbers and place them in front of the children armed with fly swatters. The goal of this simple yet fun game is for the little ones to identify the number on the dice and match it with the ones written on sticky notes before smacking the correct answer with a fly swatter!

What you need –

- Dice
- Fly Swatter
- Sticky Notes



Straws and Pom Poms

In a nutshell – Label small containers with some numbers that you'd like your learners to practice and prepare some straws and pom poms. To play this early years maths activity, the kids simply put the straw on a pom-pom, suck in to try and pick it up and drop over the containers until they've got the right number in each one.

What you need –

- Pom Poms
- Straws
- Shallow Containers
- Labelled Stickers (or any paper, glue and marker)

Card maths game 1: The Biggest Number

Place value is a crucial skill for children to grasp during primary school, and this simple card game will help them to do that in visual and fun way.

What you need to play:

- One place value grid (drawn onto a piece of paper)
- A deck of playing cards

How to play:

Step 1: Each player draws a place value grid, with an agreed number of places. E.g. Thousands, hundreds, tens and ones.

Step 2: Using a deck of cards 2-10, Ace and picture cards, with 2-10 being worth their digit, Aces being worth 1 and picture cards being worth 0.

Step 3: Players take turns to draw a card from the pile, and each player chooses which column to record the number in. The winner is the person to have the biggest number recorded at the end of the game.

Card maths game 2: First To 100

This simple game is perfect and it will get your children practising their maths skills in a fun and exciting way!

What you need to play:

- A deck of playing cards
- A sheet of paper

How to play:

Step 1: Shuffle a pack of cards and place face down. Each player takes one card and turns it over in front of them.

Step 2: Record the number on the card (Ace is worth 1 and picture cards are worth 10).

Step 3: Each player then takes a second card and adds the number to the first number, recording it on the paper.

Step 4: Keep taking cards until the first person reaches 100. They are the winner.

Game extension idea

A variation on this game can be to start at 100 and keep subtracting until someone gets down to zero.

For older children, instead of adding the cards together, they can be multiplied each time, with the winner being the first to reach 1000.

Card maths game 3: Wild Jack

This is a fast paced maths card game for two or more players, where all eyes will be on the Jacks in the pack...

What you need to play:

- A deck of cards

How to play:

Step 1: Other than the Jacks, remove all of the picture cards from a deck.

Jacks are 'wild cards' and can be used at any time to represent any number from 1 – 10.

Step 2: The aim of the game is to reach the target number. To make the target number, shuffle the pack and turn over the top two cards. If either are a 10 or joker, put them to the bottom. The 2 cards turned over make the target number. For example, if you turn over the 5 of hearts then the 2 of diamonds, your target number is 52.

Step 3: Each player is dealt 5 cards, which are set out face up. Players then can add, subtract, multiply and divide to try to reach the target number. If the target number is reached using all 5 cards, 10 points is scored, if it is made using less than 5 cards, 8 points is scored.

Getting Arty

There are a wealth of Art activities you can do with your child at home that don't require too much equipment (or mess!). Here are our top 5 fuss-free Art activities:

- **Rock painting:** grab some small rocks or pebbles next time you go out for a walk and paint them as animals to create pet rocks!
- **Photo cut-outs:** Print off any picture and cut it in half using zigzag lines. Stick onto a plain sheet of paper and challenge your child to complete the picture.
- **Copy the masters:** Challenge children to replicate the art of artists. Check out the art of Piet Mondrian or Kandinsky for younger artists.
- **Still life:** plop an apple, a vase, a glass or a flower in front of them and challenge children to draw what they see. As an extra challenge, ask them to paint it using just one colour, such as using different shades of red.
- **Squiggle art:** draw a small squiggle on a sheet of paper using curvy or straight lines. Challenge your child to then turn the squiggle into a drawing. You might be surprised at the masterpieces that can be developed from these simple squiggles!

Cooking is always a delight for children, especially when they can eat the results!

What you'll need:

- Easy-to-read recipes
- Cooking utensils
- Paper and pencils

What to do:

Show your child a recipe and go over it together. Ask your child to read the recipe to you as you work, and tell the child that each step must be done in a special order. Let your child help mix the ingredients. Allow your child to write down other recipes from the cookbook that he or she would like to help make.

Dictionary words

A dictionary is a valuable learning tool, especially if your child makes up his or her own booklet of words that are challenging.

What you'll need:

- Paper and pencils
- A stapler
- Old magazines
- Newspaper and supplements

What to do:

Encourage your child to make a dictionary by putting together several sheets of paper for a booklet. Ask your child to write at the top of each page a new word he or she has recently learned. If the word can be shown in a picture, have him or her look through magazines and newspapers to find pictures that illustrate the words and paste them on the correct pages.

Have your child write the meaning of each word and a sentence using each new word. Your child can then use some or all of these sentences as the basis for a creative story. Have your child read this story to you and other family members.

Greetings and salutations

Everyone loves to get mail, especially when the card has been personally designed.

What you'll need:

- Paper and pencils
- Crayons and magic markers
- Stamps and envelopes

What to do:

Ask your child to list the birthdays of family members, relatives, and friends. Show your child some store-bought birthday cards with funny, serious, or thought-provoking messages. Your child can then create his or her own birthday card by using a folded piece of paper, making an attractive cover, and writing a short verse inside. Then your child can mail the cards to friends and relatives for their birthdays.

Giving the gift of reading

Reading a book is more fun when you have a homemade bookmark to mark your spot.

What you'll need:

- Pieces of lightweight cardboard
- Pens and pencils
- Paper
- Crayons and magic markers

What to do:

Provide your child with a piece of cardboard about 6" long and 2" wide. On one side of the bookmark, have your child draw a picture of a scene from a book he or she has read. On the other side, ask your child to write the name of the book, its author, publisher, publication date, and a few sentences about the book. After making several of these bookmarks, you might ask the child to send them to friends and relatives as gifts accompanied by a short note.

Let your fingers do the walking

The telephone book contains a wealth of information and is a good tool for reading and writing.

What you'll need:

- A telephone book, including the yellow pages
- Paper and pencils

What to do:

Have your child look through the yellow pages of the telephone directory, select a particular service, and write a clever or funny ad for it. Have your child read this ad to you. Help your child to find your own or a friend's listing in the white pages of the telephone book. Explain the different entries (for example, last name and address), along with the abbreviations commonly used.

Map your way to success

Children love to read road maps and this activity actually helps them with geography.

What you'll need:

- A road map or atlas
- Paper and pencil
- Stamps and envelopes

What to do:

When planning a vacation, let your child see the road map and help you plan where you will drive. Talk about where you will start and where you will end up. Let your child follow the route between these two points. Encourage your child to write to the Chamber of Commerce for brochures about places you will see on your trip.