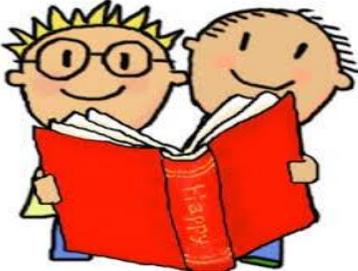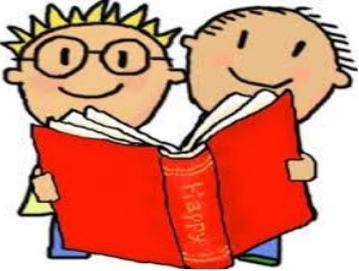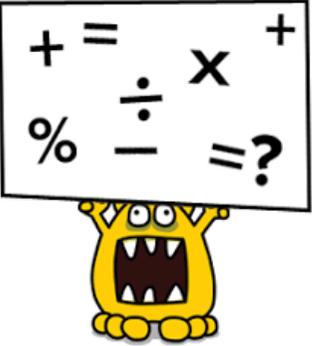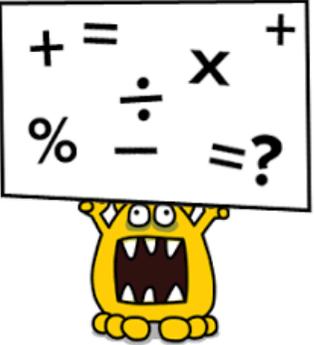# Learning at home

The table below has been produced to support parents and their children with 'learning at home' during the current lockdown. It provides some ideas of activities you might like to try with your children at home. It is based around the Primary Curriculum with activities that support learning through play. The list is not a developmental list that you need to work through. It is a great selection of activities that you can dip in and out of depending on your child's development and interests, which will support your child's learning as you play together.
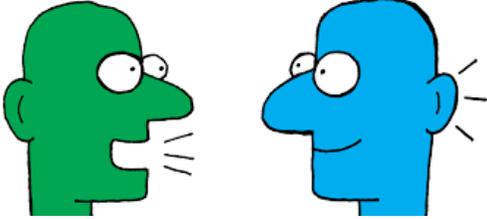
Area of Learning	Ideas to try	What does this help with?	Key words to use
Literacy	Activities that practice fine motor skills can support the development of handwriting e.g. - Cutting things out of catalogues to make a wish list - Rolling playdoh into shapes, using tools to cut it. - Threading pasta onto a string to make a necklace - Using construction toys such as Lego	Fine motor skill development to support handwriting	Items being used Actions being used e.g. Cut, Roll, thread, build Shapes of playdough Size e.g. big/small Place, e.g. in/on/under/behind/next to
	Reading Any reading is beneficial for children, and if books are not something they enjoy you may need to look for alternative texts. Reading comics, magazines, annuals, instruction manuals, kids news, cook books etc all support reading for pleasure. Looking through a book, retelling from memory or from looking at the pictures is also helps the development of reading skills.	Reading for pleasure	Naming of the pictures in the book, the actions of the characters on each page, the feelings of the characters and their description.

Area of Learning	Ideas to try	What does this help with?	Key words to use
Literacy 	**Spot the difference** Lots of magazines have these puzzles; you can also buy whole books of them. Google 'spot the difference' and there are lots of free websites such as: https://play.mattel.com/thomas-and-friends/en-us/games/spot-the-difference http://www.spotthedifference.com/ Some have a timer for an extra challenge! https://www.smithsonianmag.com/games/spot-difference-180968040/ Some are really tricky and suitable for older children (and adults)! https://www.neok12.com/games/photo-game/photo-game.htm	Concentration Visual processing and perception Finding small details in information (important for reading and spelling accurately)	Same Different
	Where's Wally? Where's Wally books have a whole list of things to find on each page but are complicated and cluttered. Other, similar books are available for younger children e.g. Where's Wookiee?, Find the Penguin. Some are available online: https://art-sci.blogspot.com/2011/07/10-wheres-waldo-puzzles.html Twinkl has lots of similar activities that are free to families during lockdown.	Similar skills to above	Look Find/found

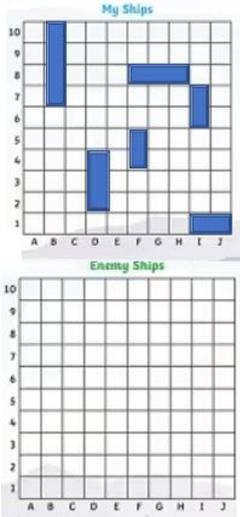| Area of Learning	Ideas to try	What does this help with?	Key words to use
Literacy	**Audiobooks** Audiobooks are a great way to listen to stories that are too tricky to be read independently. There are lots available on YouTube if you don't have a subscription to a service like Audible. Libraries are still lending books and audiobooks via click and collect.	Vocabulary development Supports comprehension and reading with expression	N/A
	I hear with my little ear Play using the first sound you can hear in a word to encourage your child to look for all the things they can find that start with the sound.	Awareness of sounds Identifying sounds	Names of objects listening for Hear Listen
	Phonic hunts Go on a hunt (indoor or outdoor) for things starting with the same sound. Take pictures of everything you find or collect objects so you can look at them again when you get in and sort them into groups all starting with the same sound.	Awareness of sounds Identifying sounds Sorting	Names of objects Hunt/find/found Same/different
	Word hunts Look for High Frequency Words in books or around the house on packaging. Which word can you find most?		Again More Look/search Find/found
	Word searches Twinkl has lots of printable searches. You can make your own here: https://www.superteacherworksheets.com/generator-word-search.html	Sight recognition of words improves fluency in reading and spelling	Look/search Find/found Vertical, diagonal. Horizontal Forwards. Backwards Up, down
	Alphabet hunt with your child's toys	Develop: phonic knowledge, listening skills, communication skills, turn taking, fun	

Area of Learning	Ideas to try	What does this help with?	Key words to use
Numeracy	**Times tables pairs** Cut up a sheet of paper into small cards. Write the sum on one card and the answer on another until you have a full set (make sure you can't see the numbers through the paper and cheat). Place face down with sums one side and answers the other and pick two at a time. After turning over the sum, get your child to say what answer they are looking for. When they find a pair, they can only keep it if they can give the equivalent division fact (2x3=6, 6÷3=2)	Quick recall of number facts	Match/pair Look Find/found
	Dot to dot You can get simple 1-10 dot-to-dots, really complicated 1000 dot-to-dots and everything in between. There are lots of pintable's online or you could try making your own by finding a picture in a book or from around the house and placing a piece of paper over the top to trace on the numbers.	Improves number recognition, sequencing, counting and visual processing	Draw/join Next (as in what number comes next?) First Last Label the items drawn
	Pattern copying Set up a pattern using materials you have at home. It could be Lego bricks, pasta, beads – anything you have a selection of. Make patterns for your child to copy. They can end up as complicated as you can both manage.	Maths is all about being able to find patterns. Also supports visual processing	Label the pattern Same/different
	Lego construction Making Lego from instruction books is a great way to develop visual-spatial skills. They don't have to be new sets – you can use any Lego you already have. The instructions are all downloadable if you have lost the books. Alternatively, you could make a freestyle model for your child to copy.	Develops visual-spatial skills.	Next (as in "what do we need to do next?) Colours Shapes Size Label the item built Place (on, under, next to etc.)

Area of Learning	Ideas to try	What does this help with?	Key words to use
Numeracy	**Number Hunts** Look for numbers in the environment, streets lend themselves nicely to the concept of odd/even numbers!	Number recognition, ordering	Numbers Odd/Even Before, after, next
	Shape Hunt Use post-its, sticky labels or a camera to find/label different objects in the house that either; Have faces that are 2D shapes Or, for older children, name which 3D shape an object is.	Shape recognition	Same/different Names of shapes
	Sorting objects into groups of 'the same' It may be the same colour, shape or the same type and could be undertaken with toys, sweets, coins, household objects. Looking at which group has most or least and helping to count the number of objects within each group will build on the simple skills of analysing data.	Simple data handling Simple counting More/less	Same/different How many More/most Less/least Total Altogether
	Traffic survey Can be done out of the front window if you live on a busy street, or as part of a walk. Make a tally of the different vehicles/coloured cars that you see.	Data handling	More/most Less/least Total Altogether
	Board Games Playing family board games can be an excellent opportunity for practicing a number of numeracy skills e.g. dominos, frustration, Uno	Quick recognition of numbers/quantities. Counting Following rules/instructions	Numbers Same/different
	Water play A variety of different containers in a tub of water can be used to explore capacity. Pouring different shaped containers into another to see if they can fit, counting how many scoops of water it takes to fill different things	Capacity	Full/empty Most/least Capacity Predict
	Time/Visual Schedules If your child struggles to tell the time, then alternatives such as visual schedules can be a useful alternative to help teach the concept (and also offers predictability and routine to the day). Referring to this, taking down activities that have happened and discussing what is coming up supports this.	Simple passing of time	First/then/next/after

MIDAS
Meadowfield Inclusion Development and Support

Area of Learning	Ideas to try	What does this help with?	Key words to use
Communication and Language	**Interview a member of your family via Zoom.** • Ask family members about their views on a subject that is being taught. Interview them about their childhood, how it compares to theirs.	Develop conversational skills. Develop active listening skills.	'What, where, when, why' questions Like/dislike Same/different
	Share a book with a member of your family via Zoom. • If they have a copy of the same text as you why not take it in turns to read a page. Each person on Zoom could read a different character's part.	Develop active listening skills and fostering a love of text.	Names of characters Parts of narrative related to the text, e.g. who, what doing, where, when, why, how etc.
	Use their outside time to go on a walk and either collect items or take photos. • These could then be used to create a collage. • The photos could be used to create a 'map' of their journey. • They could research what they have found.	Mental and physical wellbeing Conversational skills both when on walk and when discussing items/images.	Items seen/found Walk Look/see Make/do (in relation to the collage) Descriptions of items/weather
	Play Articulate Players have to use circumlocution (If you are trying to describe the word yacht you might say, it's a small boat that has large sails. You are using your existing knowledge to describe something that you don't know the official word for) to describe objects.	Word finding skills Co-operation and team work	Talk about the words being described once the turn is finished.
	Play 'I went to the shop and I bought…' • This can be just oral or can include props and visuals to support recall. This game could be changed to include " went for a walk and I saw" or "I went for a walk and I did" if actions are an area you want to focus on.	Promotes active listening and memory	Items from the shopping list game Shop Remember

Area of Learning	Ideas to try	What does this help with?	Key words to use
Early Phonics- alternatives to reading books/words/sounds for those that struggle	**Listening games** Go on a 'Sounds hunt' to develop children's listening skills and encourage them to focus attention to listen, can they think of sounds they might hear in certain environments. This can be undertaken inside or outside.	Listening Skills	Listen/look Loud/quiet Where Think Names of items related to the sounds they have heard.
	Sounds pairs Using household objects that make noise (timer beeps, cutlery clattering together, clock ticking, telephone ringing etc) put all of the objects on a surface. Take turns to close eyes whilst the other person makes a noise- can they guess what object it was.	Auditory memory	Names of objects being used Description of the sound made once guessed. Listen/look
	Before children are able to read and write words they need to be able to listen to the word and break it down into individual sounds. To support this, you can segment every-day words e.g. time to get in the b-a-th, put on your s-o-ck, where is the b-oo-k. Even if children are unable to identify the written sound they can still be exposed to these orally.	Oral segmenting	Names of items where the words are broken down, e.g. if segmenting the word b-a-th, model the word again as a whole
	If your child has difficulty remembering the sounds they have just read then playing games to support children to hold sounds in their head before they blend these will be useful.	Early phonic skills	Think/remember

MIDAS

Meadowfield Inclusion Development and Support

Area of Learning	Ideas to try	What does this help with?	Key words to use
Cross curricular *lots of learning takes place if you encourage your children to help with everyday tasks. These may not be independent, but could still count towards learning at home with some minor tweaks to emphasize the learning taking place.* 	**Cooking** Find a simple recipe from a book or online. Read it together, write or draw a shopping list of the things that need to be bought (can include a trip to the shops to buy but may be best avoided at the present time) Follow the instructions, weigh and count things out, chop and prepare ingredients, divide ingredients equally e.g. topping onto pizza, cake mix into cases. Older children may be able to do a simple recipe on their own.	Reading Writing Mark making for meaning Following instructions Maths skills- counting, measuring, money, division/sharing Fine motor skills Life skills Cooperation	First/Next/Then/After In/On Share/Divide/Equal
	Washing Sorting darks/lights, whose clothes are whose, pairing socks, following instructions to use the machine	Maths- sorting Language- following instructions	Sort Pair Same/Different First/Next/Then/After
	Build a den Sheet/quilt/blanket	Develop: creativity, imagination skills, social skills, teamwork, fun	Build Items used to build the den In/on/under
	Make a shop Tins and packets of food Coins (Remember to provide safe items only)	Develop: Communication skills, role play skills, listening skills, turn taking, social skills, vocabulary, reading skills, coin identification, money skills, fine motor control, fun	Items of food Coins and amounts Social phrases associated with the shop Pack/buy/sell Look/find Want

	Homemade Battleship graph paper, pencil and rubber if you intend reusing the grid, cereal boxes to use as a screen. 1. Fold graph paper in half. To make two grids. 2. Label A-J across the bottom. 3. Label 1-10 down the side. 4. Repeat. 5. Label one grid My Ships the other grid Enemy Ships. 6. Draw ships on to 'My Ships' grid. 1x4 xxxx ship, 2x3 xxx ships, 3x2 xx ships. See image. (You will shade in the square when your opponent guesses correctly and it is a hit and place a x when they miss.) 7. Wait for you opponent to be ready. Each opponent in turn guessing the coordinates of their opponent's ships e.g. (B,4) Use your enemy grid to fill in your opponent's ships. If you guess correctly fill the square with a 0 if you miss fill in a X. Battle your opponent. The winner is the first to sink all their opponent's ships! If you prefer to use a readymade version: Twinkl has a ready to print grid.	Develop: Numeracy skills, coordinates, turn taking, communication skills, logic, problem solving skills, listening skills, fine motor control, wellbeing, turn taking	Names of items being used Hit/miss Sink
	Guess the secret word before the snowman melts Paper, pencil, rubber Objective the guess the word (a letter at a time) before the image is erased. Using a pencil draw a snowman. Try to incorporate at least seven parts. i.e. body, head, hat, nose, mouth, eyes, stick arms, scarf, buttons (This an alternative to hangman) One player thinks of a word or phrase; the others try to guess what it is one letter at a time. The player draws a number of dashes equivalent to the number of letters in the word. If a	Literacy skills, turn taking, fine motor, fun	Names of items being used Body parts of the snowman/hangman The word/phrase and then talk about it.

	guessing player suggests a letter that occurs in the word, the other player fills in the blanks with that letter in the right places. If the word does not contain the suggested letter, the other player erases the snowman's hat. As the game progresses, an item/part of the snowman is erased for every suggested letter not in the word. Try to guess the word before the snowman disappears. The first player to guess the correct answer thinks of the word for the next game.		
	This website is designed for EAL students, however the activities are suitable for all children https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/	Language skills, literacy, history, geography….	N/A
	Pick up sticks Use cocktail sticks or wooden kebab sticks (remove sharp points before game starts) As an alternative, straw can be used A game for any number of players. The object is to pick up sticks, one by one, from where they have fallen at random, without moving any other stick. The player who collects the highest value of sticks in each round is the winner. Decide the order of play and who is going to start. This player begins by holding all the sticks together in his fist. The sticks should be held vertically so that one end touches the floor or table that is to be the playing surface. The player then releases their grip quickly so that the sticks fall in a pile. From this moment they must not be touched except by the player whose turn it is. This person removes one stick, without moving any other sticks in the pile. His turn continues until he disturbs a different stick. The next person takes their turn. Sticks may be removed in any way by hand or by flicking them off the pile with another stick. The game ends when all sticks have been picked up.	Fine motor, turn taking, problem solving, fun	Stick/straw Fall Pick up Flick On/off Finished