



Broadmeadows

SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCHOOL

Edition 6, Friday 24th April, Term 2 2020

I would like to start this edition of our newsletter by thanking our school community (parents, carers, students and staff) for their resounding positivity as we work together to support and implement remote learning for our students. We are incredibly proud of the effort that our teachers and therapists have been putting in, creating resources and activities for students to engage in at home and working collaboratively and so creatively.

We have really appreciated emails sent to our school website to update us on home learning experiences and emails from parents wanting to give some feedback to classroom teachers. We have also had some parents emailing us photos of home learning activities and in this edition we share these with you. Please use our school email address to share photos or feedback with us, so we can pass these along to our teachers, broadmeadows.sds@edumail.vic.gov.au Some of the emails and feedback received include:

“Sureya was so excited to do phonics this morning!”

“Bree has been great at her learning!”

“The morning circle video this morning was fantastic! Lara loved it heaps and followed along to the whole thing. I was so surprised. It was like you were here with her in person. Thanks so much. Just wanted to thank you personally.”

“I know the team are working hard and missing their kids.”

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended bus pick up points or the school last Thursday to collect their child’s Learning Pack that each teacher put together. It was lovely to hear how much our students enjoyed receiving these packs from their teachers, and to hear of how quickly some students wanted to sit down to open and explore those packs. The materials in the packs are intended to supplement online learning activities, by linking in with activities online as well as providing resources like rice or playdough as appropriate to support sensory exploration at home.

Each week our teachers are adding content to our Learn From Home website feature, and we are incredibly excited to see the content being added into the Parent Lounge too, with reading material, examples and videos uploaded for parents and carers. We are also endeavoring to pair content in our newsletter with videos featured in the Parent Lounge – so please enjoy reading the newsletter and then find a quiet moment to explore the related video content on the website which will support you to engage in some lovely activities with your child at home – from sensory play to cooking.

Our teachers will continue to call parents and carers twice weekly, to ensure that we maintain close communication during this time. Teachers would love to get feedback about the Learn From Home activities provided for your child, and will use this feedback to make any updates or changes for the following week as appropriate, so please do share how your child has been engaging with their activities. Thank you to the parents who have called the school to ask questions of their child’s teacher, please note that as per Department advice, our teachers are working remotely so our admin staff have been working hard to take messages to then email to teachers to ensure that follow up calls can be made. Alternatively, please email the school email address and those messages will be forwarded on to classroom teachers - broadmeadows.sds@edumail.vic.gov.au

Susi Wirth
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER TERM 2 2020

DATE	EVENT TO REMEMBER
Monday 8 th June	Public Holiday – Queen’s Birthday
Friday 26 th June	Last Day of Term 2

Learning Beyond Words
SCHOOL NEWS AND UPDATES

AT HOME LEARNING CELEBRATIONS

Thank you to the parents who have provided feedback via the school email or during phone calls with your child's teacher about how your child is engaging with the online resources and home learning packs. We are thrilled to receive this feedback. Thank you also to the parents that have sent in photos to our school email of their child engaging with the learning activities at home so that we can celebrate their work as a school community, as well as sharing their work with their classroom teachers.

This week we are delighted to share with you the joy that Breeanna has been experiencing at home as she engages in the activities set by her classroom teachers. Well done Bree! It looks like you are having a wonderful time, and your parents are very proud of you!

It was lovely to see Gabby collecting her take home learning pack from the bus drop off on Thursday – well done Gabby for signing 'thank you' to the bus staff after receiving the pack!

This is an important time to connect, to focus on the positives and to recognise hard work and effort. We would be honoured if parents chose to share photos of their child's at home learning progress with us, simply by emailing photos to our school's email address: broadmeadows.sds@edumail.vic.gov.au



Respect

Opportunity

Engagement

Communication

Support

AT HOME LEARNING CELEBRATIONS

We loved seeing Gabe in the kitchen with his family, working together to make a chocolate cake. An Aided Language Display was set up to facilitate language and communication during the activity, and so much team work and collaboration was evident during this lovely family activity. Well done Gabe!



Respect

Opportunity

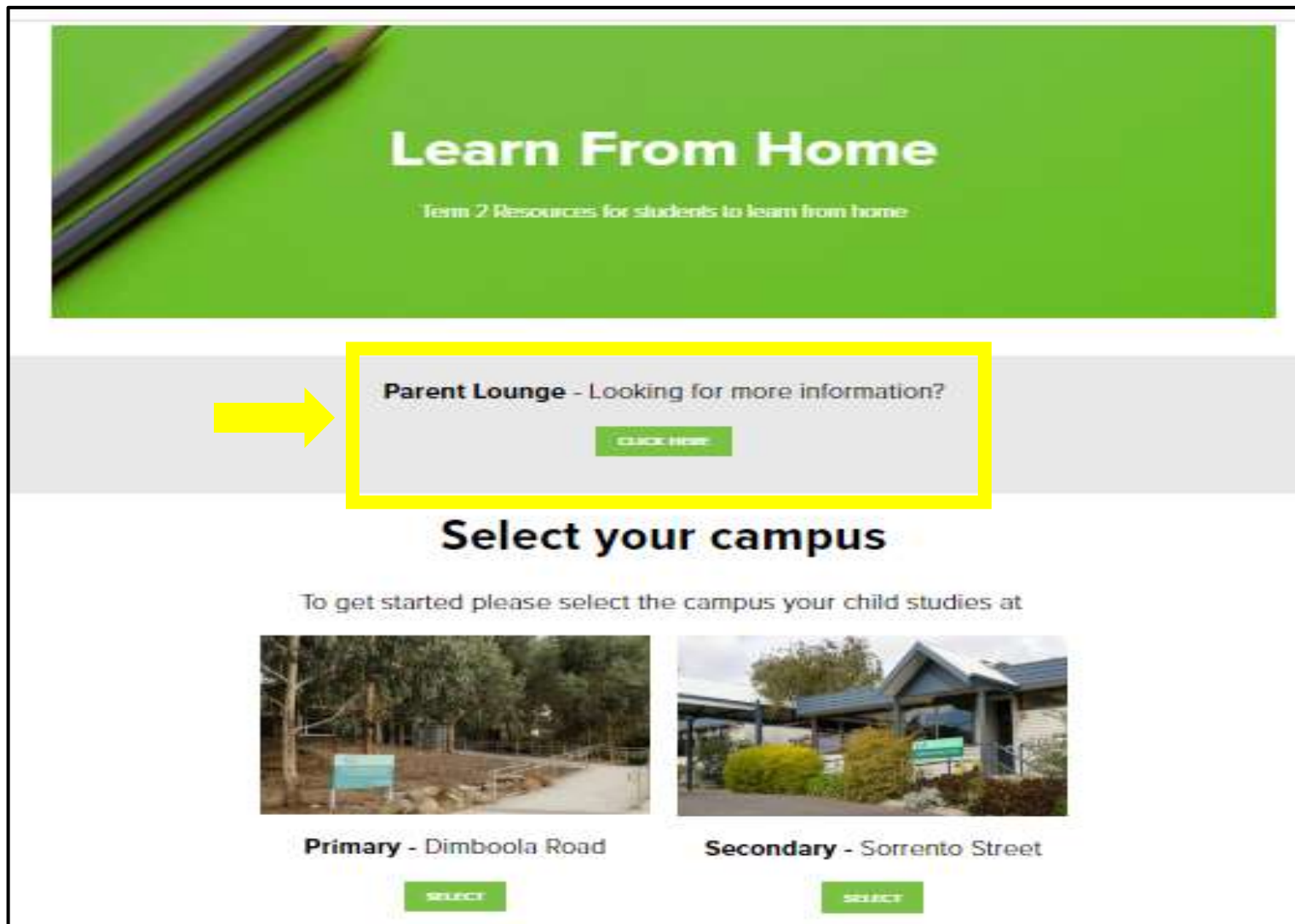
Engagement

Communication

Support

PARENT LOUNGE SCHOOL WEBSITE UPDATES

Have you had a chance to look at our Parent Lounge feature within our Learn From Home content on the school website? You can access this by clicking on the Learn From Home link on the home page and then clicking on the subsequent Parent Lounge tab. Within this parent area you will find a tremendous amount of information and support – from videos to handouts and key tips. There are PowerPoint information books, as well as videos that support parents with using Key Word Sign at home, right through to ways to work on Gross Motor skills at home – take a look at the screenshots below of one of our OTs showing parents how easy it is to set up a Gross Motor circuit at home, to work the whole body.



Learn From Home
Term 2 Resources for students to learn from home

Parent Lounge - Looking for more information?
[CLICK HERE](#)

Select your campus

To get started please select the campus your child studies at

Primary - Dimboola Road [SELECT](#)

Secondary - Sorrento Street [SELECT](#)



Learning Beyond Words
LEARNING AT HOME IDEAS

WRITING AT HOME

Article content courtesy of: <https://parents.education.govt.nz/primary-school/learning-and-development-at-home/ideas-to-help-with-reading-writing-and-maths/>

You can help your child's learning every day, by supporting and encouraging them and being excited by their learning. Here are some ideas to help your child to keep developing their writing skills at home.

Make writing fun

- Help your child write an alphabet letter, then go letter hunting in your house or in a book to find that letter.
- Let your child see you writing.
- Encourage your child to write shopping lists or make birthday cards.
- Water and a paintbrush on a dry path and a stick in sand are fun ways to write letters and words.
- Make a photo book or comic book and get your child to write captions.
- Here's a tip - Don't worry if your child's letters or words are sometimes backwards or misspelt - the important thing is that they have fun writing at home and are making an effort.

Give them reasons to write

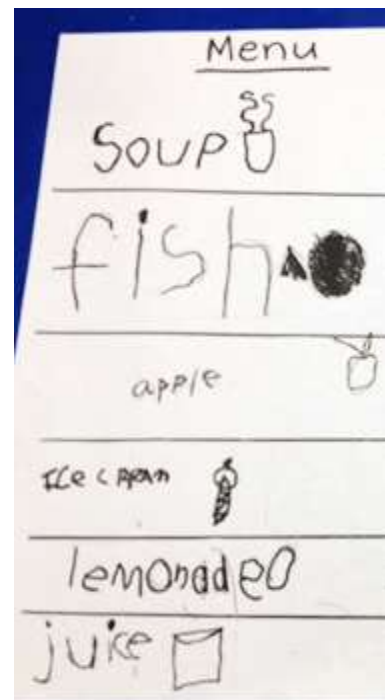
- Write to each other. Write notes to your child and leave them in interesting places, like on their pillow. Ask them to write a reply.
- Help them email, text or write to family, or friends.
- Work with them to put labels on special things - like the door to their room or their toy box.
- Write out recipes or instructions for other people to follow (especially fun if the instructions are for an adult).
- Write a menu for the evening's dinner!
- Here's a tip - display their work. Put it on the fridge. Share it with others.

Talk about their writing

- Talk about the letters in your child's name and where the name comes from.
- Help them create a scrapbook with pictures. Encourage them to write stories under the pictures and talk to your child about their work.
- Ask them to write about pictures they draw - on paper or on the computer, or get them to tell you the story and you can write it under the picture.
- Make up a different ending for a favourite story together and get them to write it down.
- Here's a tip - talk about what your child writes. Be interested. If you don't understand what your child's picture or story is about, ask them to tell you about it and show your interest...give them the gift of your time.

Encourage writing

- Have felt pens, pencils, crayons and paper available.
- Put magnetic letters on the fridge - ask what words they can make with the letters.



Respect

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Engagement

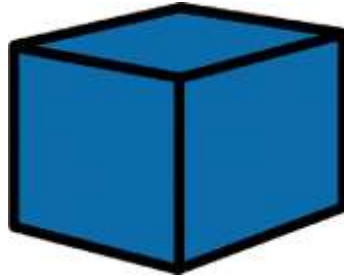
Communication

Support

Around the House SCAVENGER HUNT



Find something that starts with the same letter as your first name.



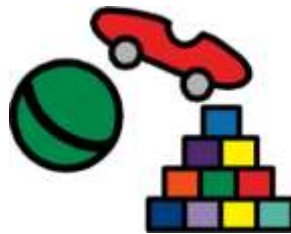
Find a 3D cube. What is it used for?



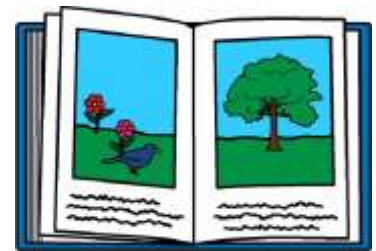
Find a favourite picture book. Have someone read it with you.



Watch a favourite movie. Describe the character (what is he/she like?) and the setting.



Find your favourite toy. Write a letter to it so it knows why it's so special to you.



Draw your favourite part of your favourite book.



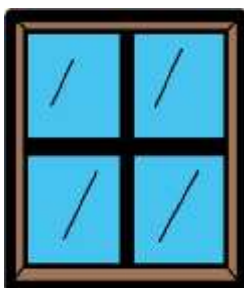
Find a photo of your family. Draw it!



Find an area in your house that needs to be organised. Organise it!



Find a kitchen tool that you have never seen before. Ask someone to teach you to use it.



Guess how many windows you have in your house. Then count them. Were you right?



Find your favourite pencil or crayon. Draw something with it.



Find the biggest table in your house. List/draw all the things that your family uses it for.

Learning Beyond Words
LEARNING AT HOME IDEAS



5 leaves that look different.



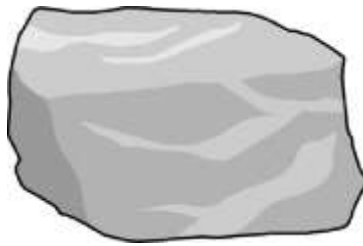
A stick that is longer than your hand.



A rock with spots on it.



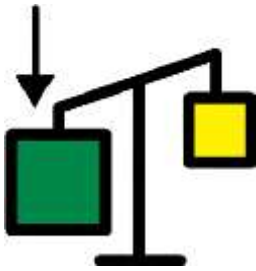
A flower.



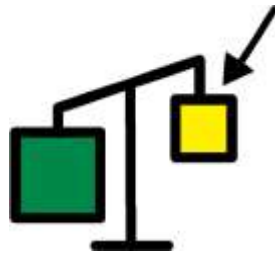
A flat rock.



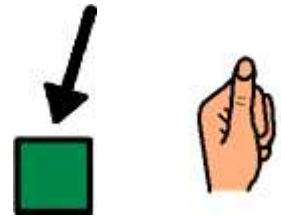
Something that is brown.



Something that is heavy.



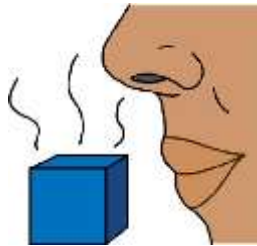
Something that is light.



Something smaller than your thumb.



Something that starts with the letter 'M'.



Something that smells nice.



10 blades of grass

Outside
SCAVENGER HUNT

MULTI-SENSORY INVITATIONS TO PLAY

This week's Multi-sensory Invitation to Play is all about rice play! Using the take home recipe below, and additional play ideas for extending rice play once it has been dyed, we hope that you and your child will find the experience to be enjoyable and engaging! Two of our BSDS therapists, Simon (SP) and Nathan (OT) have been working hard to create take home packs for students to match this resource and they have also created a range of 'how to' videos for parents to watch. Please go to the [Parent Lounge on the BSDS website](#), click on the Multi-Sensory Invitations to Play folder and select Coloured Rice for the recipe and other fun ideas!

Multi-sensory

Invitations to Play

- A collection of recipes to spark some wonderful moments of sensory play



Rainbow/Coloured Rice



What you will need...

- 4 cups rice (1 cup per colour)**
- 10 drops of each food colour**
- 1½ teaspoons white vinegar per rice colour**
- 4 large flat trays**
- spoon**

How to create....

- Add 1 cup of rice to a bowl. Add in 1½ teaspoons white vinegar and then add in 10 drops of chosen food colour. Stir well and shake bowl to mix thoroughly. Then tip out to dry on a large flat tray for at least 24 hours. Repeat for each chosen colour and then mix for rainbow rice.**

Time to play!

- **Children will enjoy the many sensations that touching rice provides, whether they are dipping their hands into it or feeling it poured over their fingers.**
- **Add into a big tub – explore with fingers, spoons, paint brushes, funnels, whisk or a fork for raking. Add in cups and jugs for filling and pouring.**
- **Colour the rice to match a theme and add in toys—red, white and green for a pizza theme, blue for ocean or sky, green for garden. Make a treasure hunt and bury toys in the rice with a picture list of toys they need to find.**

Rainbow/ Coloured Rice



MULTI-SENSORY INVITATIONS TO PLAY

Garden Play



What you will need...

- 1 kg rice**
- 8 drops green food colouring**
- 8 drops red food colouring**
- 2 drops yellow food colouring**
- Dried chickpeas**
- Large flat tray**
- Garden gloves**
- Small pots**
- Envelopes for seed packets**
- Watering can**
- Spades**

How to create....

Start by mixing the brown food dye in a small glass or jug –8 drops of green, 8 of red, and 2 of yellow. Mix well with a metal spoon. Add the 2kg of rice in a large bowl and add in the mixed brown food dye. Stir well and shake bowl until the colour looks pretty uniform. Mix up more brown food dye and add in if needed to fully coat the rice. Tip the rice onto a large flat tray to dry. When dry pour into a large tub, add gloves, spades, small pots, seed packets and a watering can.

Time to play!

- To make the seed packets, take the small envelopes. You can chose to either hand draw seed/flower/vegetable/fruit themed pictures on the packs or print out pictures to paste on or use photos from magazines to neatly cut out and paste on. Make about 6 seed packets per play kit. Into each seed packet add a handful of dried chick peas.**
- Go into the garden to source flowers, or fresh herbs to add to the fun or use plastic plants/flowers.**

Garden Play



MULTI-SENSORY INVITATIONS TO PLAY

Sight and Sound Play



What you will need...

- 4 cups rice (1 cup per colour)**
- 10 drops of each food colour**
- 1½ teaspoons white vinegar per rice colour**
- 4 large flat trays**
- spoon**
- Coloured toys and objects like:**
 - Coloured stacking cups**
 - Rainmaker shaker**
 - Plastic eggs**
 - Old dvds or cds**
 - Coloured spoons**
 - Linking chain toys**
 - Coloured Duplo blocks**
 - Musical instrument toys**

How to create....

Make a batch of coloured rice, using featured Coloured Rice recipe. When dry, mix the rice in the bottom of a large tub. Shake the tub to mix the rice well. Add on top your coloured toys and resources – with a focus on visual and auditory input.

Time to play!

- Follow your child's lead! Watch how they play and follow along with them to make a connection and establish shared play. Shape the play a little—do something different and see how they respond!**
- Model and explore language, colour names, descriptive words with Key Word Sign—loud, quiet, slow, fast, big, little.**

Sight and Sound



LEARNING AT HOME IDEAS

KEY WORD SIGN ACTIVITIES AT HOME

Story time, songs and nursery rhymes are a wonderful way to work on language and literacy development, and are experiences enjoyed by young and old! This week's Key Word Sign focus encourages you to combine reading, singing and signing with your child, using some gorgeous online resources. Visit <https://www.guardian.edu.au/learning-exchange/old-macdonald-sing-and-read-along/> Here you will find a sing-along version of Old MacDonald, paired with a beautifully illustrated book.

The nature of nursery rhymes and songs lend themselves to pairing with Key Word Sign language, as the repetition will reinforce key signs. Below you will find specific signs for the vocabulary within Old MacDonald, as well as an example of how to link the signs together as you sing along. For a digital version of the resources visit: <https://www.scopeaust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Old-MadDonald.pdf>










Old MacDonald - Key Signs



 <p>OLD- Crook and slightly spread index and middle fingers of dominant hand. Move this formation down in front of nose.</p>	 <p>MAN - (used for Old MacDonald) Move dominant fist down slightly from chin.</p>	 <p>HAD/HAVE - Cup dominant hand, fingers spread - drop hand while closing into a fist.</p>	 <p>FARM - Place thumb edge of open dominant hand on chest, palm down. Move in arc to below waist level turning to palm up.</p>	 <p>E- Use fingerspelling</p>
 <p>I- Use fingerspelling</p>	 <p>O - Use fingerspelling</p>	 <p>COW/MOO - Place fists on either side of forehead - simultaneously move both hands out and up in an arc.</p>	 <p>DUCK/QUACK - Place tips of dominant index, middle fingers and thumb together. Place formation in front of chin and open, and close formation, twice.</p>	 <p>PIG/OINK - Move dominant fist in a small circle in front of nose.</p>
 <p>CHICKEN/CLUCK - Extend dominant index finger and thumb. Keeping this formation, place back of dominant hand against chin. Place non-dominant hand, palm up in front of body. Move dominant formation down to touch non-dominant palm and close index finger to thumb tip. Bounce twice.</p>	 <p>SHEEP/BAA - Extend dominant little finger and thumb - move tip of little finger back from corner of mouth, twice.</p>			

Learning Beyond Words
LEARNING AT HOME IDEAS

KEY WORD SIGN ACTIVITIES AT HOME










Old MacDonald – Key Signs with Song Lyrics

								
<u>Old</u>	<u>MacDonald</u>	<u>had</u>	<u>a farm,</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Q</u> (fingerspell)

							
<u>And on that farm</u>	<u>he had</u>	<u>a cow,</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Q</u> (fingerspell)

		
<u>With a moo moo</u>	<u>here and a</u>	<u>moo moo there.</u>

		
<u>Here a moo,</u>	<u>there a moo,</u>	<u>everywhere a moo, moo.</u>

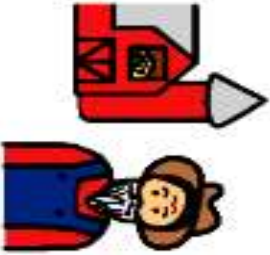
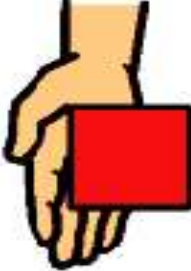











								
<u>Old</u>	<u>MacDonald</u>	<u>had</u>	<u>a farm,</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Q</u> (fingerspell)

Add other animal signs e.g duck, pig, chicken, sheep (see Key Sign Sheet for additional animal signs)

Learning Beyond Words
LEARNING AT HOME IDEAS

KEY WORD SIGN ACTIVITIES AT HOME

Old Mac Donald - Picture Song Board

 <p>Old MacDonald</p>	 <p>had</p>	 <p>farm</p>	E	I	O
 <p>cow</p>	 <p>duck</p>	 <p>pig</p>	 <p>chicken</p>	 <p>sheep</p>	
 <p>moo moo</p>	 <p>quack quack</p>	 <p>oink oink</p>	 <p>cluck cluck</p>	 <p>baa baa</p>	

We have also included a Boardmaker visual, with related key words. You can point to the pictures at the same time as you sign and sing the song. Have fun with your child as you expand their language and develop a few new skills yourself!

WAYS TO BRING A LITTLE SPARK TO YOUR COMMUNITY DURING THIS TIME

There have been many clever ideas shared recently with ways to stay connected with loved ones, or to bring a little joy to people in the local area with street art or paintings displayed in windows.

Writing letters offers a great chance for literacy development, and is such a motivating and lovely experience. Your child could send a 'hug' to a family member with this simple idea: Roll out a long sheet of butcher paper (or paper attached to an Ikea drawing easel). Your child then lays on their back with their arms outstretched, so that another family member can trace around their outline. Use textas and paint to add in a face, and to paint or colour in the arms and torso. Allow a little piece of paper at the bottom of the torso to remain blank. Here your child can write a little note or you can write for them. Add on a little covering flap and stick it on with sticky tape, so the note is hidden. Cut around the outline of the body once dry. Carefully fold the 'hug' up and put it in an envelope ready to post. Your family member will love receiving this special gift and you and your child will love creating it!



MAIL A HUG

An easy way for kids to brighten the day of a friend or loved one that they don't see often!



PAVEMENT PATTERNS

Have you been on a walk around your neighbourhood for your daily exercise and seen the gorgeous rainbows and teddy bears appearing in windows or on letterboxes? Your child can add their own colour and joy to the neighbourhood with a little chalk art on the footpath.

You can work on shapes and colours too by using packing tape or masking tape, to tape down an outline and geometric pattern design. Your child can use chalk to colour in the patterns. Then peel off the tape to reveal their stunning design – ready to brighten someone's day as they go on their own daily walk.



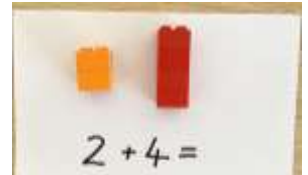
LEARNING WITH LEGO

Article content courtesy of: <https://childhood101.com/lego-learning-activities/>

Lego is such a fun toy and is a great learning resource. Building a set straight out of the box is great for encouraging children to learn to follow a sequence of instructions, and requires intense use of visual discrimination skills and fine motor skills. Then there's the creativity of free building with a collection of Lego bricks! However, Lego is also valuable as a resource for a whole range of learning activities – everything from writing to spelling, math to science, even art. The collection of activities below are open ended – meaning they can be used with children across a number of different ages or ability levels – you might just tweak the instructions, the amount of support you give, or your expectations of the final product, depending upon the needs of your child.

LITERACY

- **Sight words/spelling** - Use a wipe off texta to write individual letters (one per brick) onto the side of small Duplo bricks. Your child can then find the bricks needed for a word and assemble them in order. You may provide your child with a picture or object to spell out or an example of the written word as a model.
- **Lego barrier game** - This fun game is perfect for playing in pairs, and is fabulous for developing oral language communication skills. You'll need two identical sets of 12-15 Lego bricks. With each player sitting on opposite sides of a table, set up a large book, box or other barrier in the middle of the table – so that one player cannot see what the other is doing. Player One builds something using their own collection of bricks; make sure that Player Two isn't able to see what they are making. Then Player One needs to give Player Two a series of verbal instructions, one at a time, so that Player Two can re-create the same construction. You can simplify this game with fewer bricks in each set, or make it more complicated with more bricks.
- **Lego story starter** - Build 2 or 3 creatures, and a building or landscape setting, and use this as inspiration for writing a story. This could even be a multiple part drama that is added to over a series of days as your child plays with their figurines and setting.



MATHS

- **Identifying numerals** - Challenge your child to build each of the numerals 0-9 using Lego bricks. It's not as easy as it sounds!
- **Pattern making** - Use Lego bricks of the same size to make repeated patterns. Start by making some simple 1:1 patterns for your child to extend, for example, red-blue-red-blue etc. Then try 1:2 patterns, for example red-blue-blue, red-blue-blue etc. Then try three colour patterns, for example, red-blue-yellow etc. Increase the complexity of the patterns as your child masters a previous combination. Mix it up by asking your child to make patterns for you to continue.
- **Addition** - Lego is a great hands-on counting tool to use for completing addition and subtraction problems. You can write a list of addition problems and then encourage your child to make two stacks of bricks and then combine and count to calculate the total. For example, for the equation $2 + 4 =$, your child would make one stack of two bricks and one stack of four bricks and then combine the two stacks to make one tower of six bricks.
- **Measurement** - You can use stacks of the same brick to measure almost anything! Your shoe, the width of the coffee table, your whole self! Count the bricks you've used and record the name and length of the item on a piece of paper.



SCIENCE

- **Build a marble maze** – use a base and add in bricks to create your maze design.
- **Build a vessel** that will hold water without leaking.

ART

- **Build and sketch** - Create a still life scene out of Lego and then have fun sketching your still life onto paper and then colouring or painting it.

Learning Beyond Words
THERAPY SUPPORT TIPS

HEAVY WORK

Heavy Work is any type of activity that pushes or pulls against the body – giving input to muscles, joints, and ligaments. This input can have a calming and focusing effect on your child, especially if they are craving this type of input. How can you tell if your child seeks this kind of input? They may be constantly moving, jumping, climbing, or crashing into things. They may have a hard time staying seated and focusing during homework or dinner time. Heavy work activities are a great way to give your child the input their body needs. Here are a few ways you can incorporate heavy work into home life:

- **Carry or push a filled laundry basket** - Make sure the laundry basket is heavy enough that actually requires some work for your child to carry or push it, but not too heavy that they struggle. You can make it into a race or obstacle course. Some items you could fill it with are books, stuffed animals (this works great for younger kids), or any other random items from around your house.
- **Crashing** - Children who crave proprioceptive input can often be found ‘crashing’ into things. Providing some controlled crashing experiences will help give them the input they are craving in a safe way. Bean bags, stacking up blankets and pillows, or making a huge ball pit out of a small swimming pool can work.
- **Jumping** - Something as simple as jumping can be great proprioceptive input. Small trampolines (or large) are great for this. Jump rope or jumping on a pogo stick are also great options.
- **Clean the house** - Pushing a vacuum, broom, or mop are great heavy work activities that require no additional tools or set-up. Simply helping out around the house is a perfect solution for heavy work at home.
- **Washing windows** - Use a spray bottle to spray down the window (awesome heavy work for the hands!) and then use a washcloth to wipe the window clean.
- **Knead dough or playdough** - This is a great heavy work for the fingers and hands. You can use homemade playdough or have your child help you knead bread if you make it by hand.
- **Chew gum or crunchy foods** - Chewing gum or crunchy foods is like a mini workout for the mouth! Your mouth is full of proprioceptive receptors. So chewing gum or having crunchy foods as a snack or break time is a great option that all the kids can enjoy together.
- **Sip water from a straw** - The act of sucking through a straw is again another great proprioceptive activity with the mouth. If you have a child who has some oral sensitivities or gravitates towards putting things in their mouth, this is a great one.
- **Take out the rubbish** - Housework and chores can be amazing heavy work opportunities. Don't pass up the opportunity for taking out the rubbish. Carrying the bags to the wheelie bin or pulling the bin out to the street are all great options.
- **Help with yard work** - Moving dirt with a shovel, filling up a wheelbarrow and moving dirt or rocks, or digging in the soil are all great options.
- **Wash the car** - Get the water hose, buckets, and don't forget actually pushing against the car to wash it! This is such a great heavy work activity, plus it's FUN!
- **Water plants with a watering can** - Filling up a watering can and carrying it to water plants is another awesome heavy work activity. The weight of the water gives your child's arms, shoulders and core a workout.
- **Riding a bike** - The simple act of riding a bike is a great heavy work activity.



Respect



Opportunity



Engagement

Communication

Support

Learning Beyond Words
LEARNING AT HOME IDEAS

COOKING AT HOME

Here is a wonderful cooking activity that combines play with cooking! Do you have dinosaur toys or small insect toys in your child's toy box? Rummage around and see what you can find, give them a wash in warm water (get your child to help – washing up is a great sensory activity) and then let the cooking fun begin! This is a tried and tested sugar cookie recipe from our Cake Catering team's recipe book, and with the addition of a few little toys, it will turn into a fun-filled activity for you and your child. The visual recipe below features step by step tips to making these Fossil Cookies, and we have created a [video on our Parent Lounge on the website](#) to pair with this resource, so you can follow along! Just visit the link below and click on the Parent Lounge link and get those ovens heating! <https://www.broadmeadowssds.vic.edu.au/learn-from-home>



Special equipment or ingredients you will need:



2 large flat baking trays



baking paper



large round cookie cutter



rolling pin



small plastic toys, dinosaur/insect



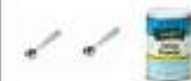
glad wrap



INGREDIENTS: to make 1 batch sugar cookies



3 cups flour



2 teaspoons baking powder



1 cup caster sugar



2 teaspoons vanilla extract



1 egg, at room temperature



227g butter, at room temperature

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INSTRUCTIONS:



Preheat oven to 175 degrees Celsius. Line 2 baking trays with baking paper.



In a bowl sift together 3 cups flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder.



In a large bowl using a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat 227g soft butter and 1 cup caster sugar together on medium speed until completely smooth and creamy, about 2 minutes.



Beat in 1 egg and 2 teaspoons of vanilla. Scrape the bowl with a spatula and beat again as needed to combine.

INSTRUCTIONS:



Add flour and baking powder mixture to the bowl. Mix slowly at first gradually getting faster until the dough comes together. The texture should be like Playdoh. Add a little flour or water if needed to get it to a soft, pliable consistency.



Turn out onto Glad Wrap and shape into ball.



Place ball of dough in-between 2 sheets of baking paper. Use a rolling pin and roll until about 1/4 inch thick. The cookies will not rise while baking, they will not get thinner while baking. Roll out to your desired FINISHED thickness.

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INSTRUCTIONS:



Use a large round cookie cutter and cut out circle shapes, leaving a slight gap in between each cut out. Push dinosaur or insect toy into middle of cookie to leave an imprint.



Transfer the cookies to baking tray lined with baking paper. Place the tray of cookies in the middle rack of the oven. Bake at 175° for 6-8 minutes or until the centres are puffy and no longer glossy.



Pull the cookies out of the oven BEFORE they start turning brown. If they turn brown, the cookie will be dry and 'crackery' instead of soft and chewy. Leave on baking tray for a few minutes to cool. Then move to wire baking rack to cool completely.

Extra ideas....

Once cooked and cooled your child can play matching games with the dinosaur or insect toys, to match the toy to the fossil imprint.

You could also use cookie icing tubes to fill in the fossil imprints for a little colour! The fun can continue even after the cooking is finished!



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