


Learning through Play at Home.

A resource for parents within the 'Spring' theme for learning.

Here are four ideas for exploring the theme of spring through play at home. Play provides opportunities to explore the theme of spring whilst acquiring new language, allowing your child to lead with their ideas, and most importantly, having fun!

<p>Junk Art</p>	<p>Junk art uses open ended materials that allow children to be creative, it enhances their independence and works on many skills.</p> <p>Reusing packaging such as egg cartons, yogurt pots etc. is a great way to explore the theme while also working on skills such as colouring, cutting and gluing. It's also a great opportunity to practise following instructions. Start where your child is comfortable, for example, 2 steps together. Chat about what you're doing together and embrace the creativity!</p> 
<p>Vocabulary to target</p>	<p>Cutting, sticking, gluing, matching, colours, number names, 3D shapes, in front of, behind, beside, under.</p>
<p>Let's chat!</p>	<p>What are you making? How are you making it? What did you do first? What does this part do? I wonder what would happen if you (changed this part, used this material etc.)? Tell me about your creation: What job does it do? What is its name?</p>
<p>Help with scissors</p>	<p>Tips for getting started with scissors: Try tearing paper into strips. Find a comfortable hold and practise picking up in that hold. Practise opening and closing scissors. Cut snips around a page. Cut in a straight line. Cut a straight line and turn a corner. Cut around wavy lines and circles.</p>

Small World

Small world is imaginative play that allows children to create a story around things they know.

Make a small world farm:


You can use toy animals or characters that you already have at home and create the farm with tiles, blocks, coloured paper or even materials collected from the garden or park. Part of the fun and problem solving is repurposing what you already have and trying to use things in different ways! You can make the small world inside a box or on a tray.



Once you have created your small world together, it's time to play. Depending on your child's readiness, they may imitate you as you play, they may move the toys, or they may move and speak for the character, expressing ideas and emotions.



Extend it!

- Make a map for your small world.
- Practise writing by making labels for parts of the small world.
- Tell a story using small world.
- Make a photo story by taking photos of the small world as you tell the story.

<p>Messy Play</p>	<p>Messy play can be done with play dough, sand, flour, water or materials collected from the garden or park. It can be a lovely sensory experience.</p> <p>Here is a recipe for homemade play dough. You can have lots of fun whilst working on fine motor skills, measuring and following instructions. https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/playdough-recipe</p> <p>If it would be appealing for your child, for an extra sensory experience add lavender, spices such as cinnamon and ginger or a drop of safe food extracts such as vanilla, peppermint or lemon to the playdough.</p> <p>Use play dough to make spring flowers, baby animals, chicks in their nest and any other ideas your child has. Playdough is a great communication activity and can be used to practise language, Lámh and PECS. Talk about colours, actions, size and spring topic words.</p> 
<p>Vocabulary to target</p>	<p>Roll, stick, create, soft, squash, push, smash, twist, big, little, long, short, tall, stems, petals, leaves.</p>
<p>Extend it!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use different kitchen utensils each time (for example; rolling pin, cookie cutters, potato masher etc.). • Ask your child to make a shape and hide it. They can describe it to you until you guess correctly. • Take turns to add to a creation and see what you end up with, describe each action along the way.

<p>Construction</p>	<p>Construction is great for working on maths skills – measuring, estimating, and counting. It is also a social activity and there are opportunities for talking, describing and sharing materials.</p> <p>Construction can be done with building blocks, lego, cereal boxes and other sturdy packaging, natural materials such as twigs and shells – whatever you can find!</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>
<p>Vocabulary to target</p>	<p>Shape words, colours, join, break apart, separate, materials, farmhouse, barn, pond, milking shed, hay, animal words,</p>
<p>Extend it!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at photos of famous buildings to get inspiration for the next build. • Small world characters might like to visit your construction! • Make signs for parts of your construction: the address, names of buildings, for example, ‘the barn’. • Extend your construction with a train set, roads or draw and cut out roads leading to your build.