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## Newsletter

Issue No.63 June 2020

### Home Learning support and ideas

Welcome to our next newsletter.

This newsletter should provide you with some useful ideas, covering each area of learning. We welcome your own suggestions for future newsletters, please email them to [parents@blackmorepreschool.co.uk](mailto:parents@blackmorepreschool.co.uk)

These are just suggestions and are not designed to pressure you into completing, our first priority is keeping the children safe and happy.

### CONTACT

Whilst you are away from the setting, we just want to remind you that we are available if you need to contact us or require any additional support.

Please email in the first instance on [parents@blackmorepreschool.co.uk](mailto:parents@blackmorepreschool.co.uk) and if you require a phone call, please forward your number and we will call you back.

Please see the end for specific area contact details. Thank you.

### Working in Partnership with Parents - Fathers Day

As a setting we would usually have supported the children to make a Father's Day card and gift, sadly, this year we wont be able to. However, we have added some ideas below to make a card and gift at home and help the children understand the importance of people in the family, how we help each other, kindness and gratefulness.

#### Cards -



#### Gifts -



## Personal Social Emotional Development



Lockdown Log – Get a sheet of paper and stick photos, draw pictures or write about all the things you and your child have done, you can record books you have read, new things your child has learnt, cooking you have done. You can discuss feeling about how your child feels being at home, not seeing friends and family. You can discuss the books you have read, what they liked and what they didn't. You could share these with us, via a photo to our email address.

## Communication and Language



Be an active listener – fully engage with what your child has to say and show you value their contribution  
Hold a conversation – Try not to ask too many questions, use open questions where possible  
Wait, watch & wonder – use 'I wonder' to promote your child's thinking skills and investigate their language  
Repeat children's language - use correct pronunciation back to the child and extend language by adding one word

## Physical Development

Use chalk – this is a great resource that isn't permanent and can create hours of fun – this promotes fine and gross motor – make a hopscotch, draw pictures on floor or wall, draw round each other and add detail, decorate plant pots.

Wash the toys! – get a bucket of soapy water and let the children clean their own toys – talking to them about hygiene and cleanliness and reasons we wash our hands and keep things clean.



Create your own mini sports day – egg and spoon race, running races, skipping race, long jump, high jump (if possible), obstacle course.



Create your own room laser maze and find different ways to move to get from one end to the other.

## Literacy



Sharing a book with a child is fun – now you can take it to another level – act it out! You can each take on parts, dress up and have fun! You can then discuss the story, finding out their favourite character, suggesting an alternative ending, learning to understand the structure of beginning, middle and end.

Alphabet rocks – Collect 26 rocks and write an alphabet letter on each one, then write out simple words on paper or a white board and get the child to find the corresponding rock and spell it out. Say the letter sound in phonics. Keep it simple – cat, dog, hat. You could do the same for colours and shapes.

## Maths



Get a jar and make a label (that says 'building memories') – then get your child to tell you all the things they have done and enjoyed and you can write it on the bricks. Whilst doing this, your child can count how many they have, the colour, guess how many will fill a jar and count to check their guess.



Shape collage – Cut out paper in shapes of circle, square, rectangle, triangle (let your child use scissors if you feel it is safe to do so) and let your child create a picture, using the shapes for a purpose – rocket, house, person. Say the shape name as they do this.

## Understanding of the world



Make a den – inside or out – all you need is blankets, chairs, pegs, cushions, sheet. Get the children involved – let them come up with ideas, to trial, see what works, what doesn't, let them use their imagination. Once built, pretend to camp out, let them build a pretend bonfire with sticks, have a tea party, go on nature walk, talk about what you can see and hear.

Dinosaur ice eggs – You'll need balloons, small plastic dinosaur and water. Place the small dinosaur in the balloon, carefully fill the balloon with water and tie a knot in the end. Put the balloon in the freezer, be careful not to squish it out of shape, when balloon is completely frozen and solid, take it out the freezer, remove the balloon and you have a dinosaur egg. This is a great activity to get children to guess what will happen and be inventive in ways to get the dinosaur out the egg.



Worm Charming - This activity works best either in the morning or later in the day when the soil is a little wet. Act like a bird and stamp your feet on a grassed area, might take a little while but worms should come to the surface – be careful though, you don't want to stamp on any – count how many you can see

## Expressive Arts and Design



Potato printing – cut the potato lengthways for a long stamp or across the middle for smaller stamp. Use a cookie cutter to press into the potato and carefully with a knife can cut around the cutter to give you your shape. Now use paint, either apply with a brush or dip straight in and print on the paper. You can experiment with colour mixing and predict what colour it will make, add items to the paint – glitter, sand and discuss the texture.

Junk modelling – get boxes, materials, paints, tape, glue and let your child be Imaginative and combine different media.

Make your own instruments – rice in a bottle for a shaker, use a bucket and a wooden spoon as a drum, tissue box with elastic bands round, tape together straws of different lengths.



### Safeguarding

All children should grow up in safety without the risk of being abused or neglected. The following links can support you on how to keep children safe, what we do as practitioners and what to do if your worried.

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/SSTMicrosite/media/Website-Files-SST/SST%20fact%20sheets/SST-Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-information-for-Parents-Factsheet.pdf> - safeguarding information for parents

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/> - safeguarding information for parents, including how to report

<https://www.escb.co.uk/parentcarer/> - safeguarding information for parents, including how to report

<http://blackmorepreschool.co.uk/policies> - Blackmore Community preschool policies and procedures

<https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/safeguarding/pages/safeguarding.aspx> - regularly updated link, including covid19

### Online Safety

With an ever advancing world of technology its important for parents and preschool practitioners to be aware of current trends and keep up to date with relevant information in order to support the children, especially at a time when they are beginning to know more than most of us!!

<https://report.iwf.org.uk/en/> - Information on reporting concerns

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> - Information on reporting concerns

<https://www.childnet.com/resources> - wealth of information and support of all age groups

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/health-impacts-screen-time-guide-clinicians-parents#downloadBox> – information on how screen time impacts health and how to manage it.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> - wealth of information and support

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Internet-Matters-Guide-Online-safety-for-parents-of-children-0-5-years-old.pdf> - information and support for parents with 0-5 year olds

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people/resources-3-11s> - information for children aged 3 – 11 years.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

### Mental Health

Mental Health is something we all need to understand and be aware of. Equally important is how and when to seek help. This is especially paramount now, during this difficult and uncertain time. You may be concerned about your own, family member or your child's mental health. The links below provide good advice for children and parents who have mental health concerns.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/> - support for parents worried about their child's mental health

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/support-for-parents/children-s-mental-health> - support for spotting the early signs and support you can give

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/c/children-and-young-people> -information and support

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/caring-for-children-and-young-people/children-and-young-peoples-services/> - support and additional links

## Other online resources

Please find below some online sites that can help with learning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUNzDrsl0Sw&feature=youtu.be> – this is helpful for anyone starting school in September



returning  
poster.pdf

- Flyer from Essex County Council regarding changes you may see at Preschool



## Educational Psychology Service Parent Helpline

**Do you have concerns about your child's education or development that you would like to talk through with an Educational Psychologist (EP)?**

**Call our  
Parent Helpline**

**01245 433293**

**Mondays and Wednesday 1pm – 5pm  
(during term time)**

### **What is the Parent helpline?**

The helpline is for carers and parents of children and young people up to the age of 19 with concerns about their children's education or development.

### **What will happen during a call?**

You will talk to a qualified Educational Psychologist who will listen to your concerns and work with you to find a positive way forward.

### **What will happen after a call?**

It will be a discrete piece of work with no follow up from the EP.

The helpline is confidential and personal details will not be recorded and nor will information be passed onto other sources.

