

Activity Ideas for Home Learning

to predict, mimic and remember the words, and encourage them to join in with parents, teachers or older siblings at reading time. This collection of 100 picture books includes wordless stories, rhyming tales, counting stories, poetry and traditional fables – all highly illustrated to keep your child's imagination fired up.

Search on Youtube- Conversational Reading Abecedarian approach- [3a's Abecedarian Approach - Encouraging Language through Conversational Reading with children - YouTube](#). There are some really useful video's that will help to support reading time with your child. Children need to be able to say it before they can read it and if they cannot read it they cannot write it!

Nursery rhymes are very important to a child's learning.

Research has found that when a child knows eight or more nursery rhymes by heart, at the age of 4, that they are usually one of the best at reading and spelling in their class by the age of 8!



Maths for home learning

1. Number Hunt in Jelly

The early years maths activity: – Learning Numbers with Jelly by Make Do and Friend

In a nutshell – First, spread out some plastic numbers in jelly layers. When it's all set, give out some tongs to children and show them how to pick up the numbers from the wiggly substance ([and practice their fine motor skills along the way!](#)). This sensory play is a great way of sneaking in number recognition to something fun and engaging for the children.



2. LEGO Patterns

The early years maths activity: – [DIY Lego Pattern Cards by A Crafty Living](#)

In a nutshell – Good, old LEGO. Useful – [in so many different ways](#), here it comes to the rescue yet again. Prepare some cards with colourful blocks on them and let kids discover colour patterns and reproduce them with LEGO blocks. Consider leaving the colouring part to your little learners [to include some EAD](#) a in the mix too.



3. Missing Numbers

The early years maths activity: – [Missing Number Math Activity by Planning Playtime](#)

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.



Smack It

The early years maths activity: – [Smack the Number Counting Game by Fun Learning for Kids](#)

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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!



5. Straws and Pom Poms

The early years maths activity: – [Straw and Pom Poms Counting Game by Nurture Store](#)

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.



6. Do-a-Dots!

The early years maths activity: – [Number Dots and Easy Touch And Count Activity by Busy Toddler](#)

In a nutshell – Tape some parchment paper to the wall and write several numbers, each decorated with as many dots as the number. Now, kids can touch each dot with a do-a-dot marker and see the number and the quantity all together! You can also put the paper on the floor but holding a marker up and out makes this not only an activity for early years maths but also a good way to strengthen those little arm muscles.

7. Musical Maths

The early years maths activity: – [Top 10 Counting Songs by Super Simple Songs – Kids Songs](#)

In a nutshell – [According to the BBC](#) “When children are singing they are taking in information and training the brain but they don’t think they are, they think they are just having fun. Singing is an aerobic activity that boosts oxygenation in the bloodstream, increasing mental alertness”. We agree! Check out these 10 lovely songs to give it a go. Songs you could sing are- 5 Little Ducks, 5 Little Speckle Frogs, 5 Currant Buns, 10 Green bottles, 5 Little Men in a Flying Saucer and 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive.



8. Broken Hearts

The early years maths activity: – [Valentine Math Activity – Broken Heart Numbers by Fun a Day](#)

In a nutshell – Here’s an idea for February 14th. Simply cut out some hearts and cut each in half using different zigzags, squiggles and so on. Then write a number on one side and draw a corresponding number of hearts on the other. Well done, you’ve just created puzzles! Now it’s time for the little ones to find matching parts of the broken hearts.



9. 1:1 counting

The early years maths activity: physical 1:1 counting.

In a nutshell – Any resources can be used for this. Pasta, lego bricks, stones, pegs etc. Ask your child to find you an amount. Your child will count and physically place their hand on each object, or pull out each object out of a bag to give you the correct amount. (Numbers to 10.) You could then develop this activity and use a number line so children can recognise and identify the written number.

10. 1:1 counting

The early years maths activity: physical 1:1 counting

In a nutshell – Roll a dice and count the amount needed. Use resources to count out and match the amount.



Maths for home learning

1. Pom Pom Avalanche

The activity – [Pom Pom Turn Taking Game by Onetimethrough](#)



Communication and language area(s) of development: Turn-taking, social interaction

In a nutshell – Trap pom poms in a colander using some wooden sticks or pipe cleaners and turn it upside down. Let the children take turns to pull the sticks out (and strengthen their [fine motor skills!](#)) until all of the pom poms fall down like an avalanche!

What you need –

- Around 50 Coloured Pompoms
- Wooden BBQ Sticks or Pipe Cleaners
- A Large Colander

2. Memory Game

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The activity – [Paper Plate Big Alphabet Memory Game by Frugal Fun For Boys and Girls](#)

Communication and language area(s) of development: Turn-taking, social interaction, attention & listening

In a nutshell – A kingsize variation of the good old pair matching game. Take several paper plates and markers and write some letters if you want your little ones to [practice literacy](#) or draw shapes, animals and other items if it's time to build their vocabulary.

What you need –

- A Dozen Paper Plates
- Marker Pen



3. DIY Telephone

The activity – [Super Simple Listening Game and Crafts for Kids by Kids Activities Blog](#)

Communication and language area(s) of development: Social interaction, attention & listening

In a nutshell – This simple, crafty telephone will engage kids for hours. All they need to do is paint some plastic cups, poke a hole in each of them, and thread string through the bottom. You can experiment with various speaking activities but we recommend the old school game of telephone where kids whisper to each other and pass the message around.

What you need –

- Plastic Cups
- String or Rope
- Paint for Decoration



4. Dance Freeze

The activity – [Game of the Week: Dance Freeze by Play works](#)

Communication and language area(s) of development: Attention & listening

In a nutshell – Dance when the music's on and freeze when it stops. It's as simple as that. You might know it as some ice-breaker entertainment for a birthday party, but it's also great for an attention and listening exercise. If you're not sure what to play, check out [this video](#) with some lovely, cartoon characters that sing and guide their audience.

What you need –

- A Music Player
- An Open Area Free of Obstacles

5. Story Stones

The activity – [Homemade Story Stones by Happy Hooligans](#)



Communication and language area(s) of development: Expressive language, vocabulary, turn-taking, attention and listening

In a nutshell – Story stones are essentially very simple prompts for narrative play. All you need to do is get some flat and smooth stones from a craft shop or a beach and decorate them with pictures of objects or animals. Choose one of the stones and start a tale based on the picture on it, then encourage your pre-schoolers to draw more stones and continue the story.

What you need –

- Small Stones
- Stickers or [Mod Podge](#) and Magazine Pictures Cut-Outs

6. Dressing Up

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The activity – [Free Let's Get Dressed Game by Teaching Talking](#)

Communication and language area(s) of development: Vocabulary

In a nutshell – Get these neat printables to encourage your little fashionistas to use newly learnt words and phrases connected to clothes and colours while letting their creative minds go wild.

What you need –

- Free Printables
- Scissors



7. I Spy With My Little Eye

The activity – [10 Ways to Play 'I Spy' by Teaching Every Day](#)

Communication and language area(s) of development: Vocabulary, listening & attention

In a nutshell – 10 variations of the classic 'I Spy' game that require focus from the little ones and will help to strengthen their vocabulary. We suggest that you let the kids ask questions to encourage discussion, instead of just guessing one word at a time.

What you need –

- Nothing!



