SEN resources and ideas 2/6/2020

Fine motor skills:

Ideas on how to create some activities using everyday items from home.

Pasta threading in the pictures below can benefit;

* Hand eye co-ordination
* Pincher grasp practice
* Strenghtening hand muscles
* Increase concnetration and persistence



Similar to above, using a tongs can benefit young children in the same way. To make this activity more challenging a narrower thongs, tweezers or even a clothes peg can be used to pick up smaller items like buttons, beads, pom poms or other similar objects you have at home.



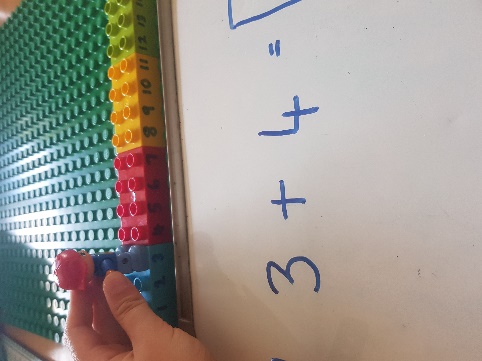
See this website for more ideas on how to improve fine motor skills: <https://www.theottoolbox.com/occupational-therapy-activities-using/>

<https://myotandme.com/blogs/news/my-ot-me-free-resource-kit-access>

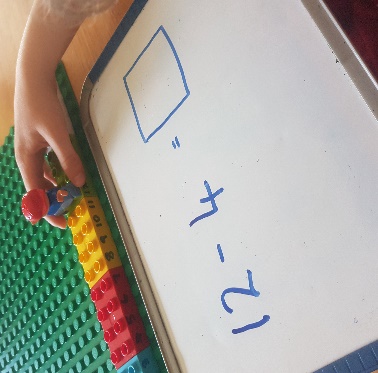
* Sign up to this website for free for 10 Let’s Get Moving Gross Motor Classes Fine Motor Skills activities.
* Scissors skills are extremely important e.g. cutting shapes, images which children incorporate into art or maths. See the design a park activity attached from Twinkl.
* Letter formation practice can be continued using lots of different materials both indoors and outdoors (chalk, playdough, pipe cleaners, string, markers, crayons etc).
* Handwriting practice can be aided through the use of Letter Quiz Lite (practice lower case letters first).

Maths ideas

Using hands on activities and tactile resources are important for you child when counting on and back.



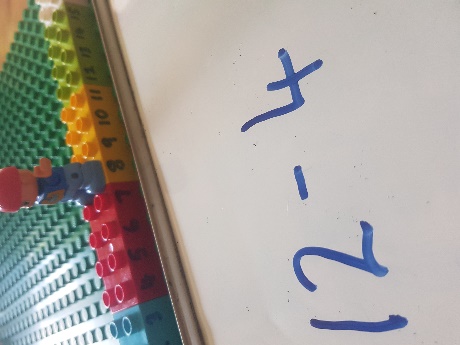
* Using Lego blocks (Duplo Lego used here) you could create a number line to 10 or 20 for your child, marking each row of 2 on the block with a number.
* A character from Lego can be used to take the jumps counting on from 3 and taking 4 jumps.

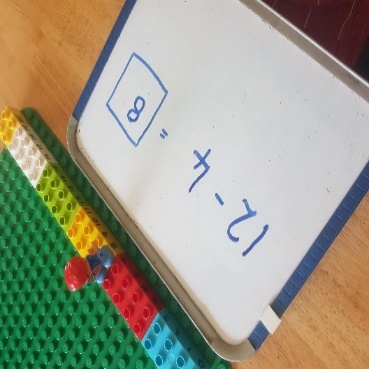


* Similarly, for subtraction the child can use the Lego character to jump back and take away 4.
* Encourage your child to count each step out loud and to fill in the answer in the box when they finish and land on the number.
* For children who are confident they can write number story for each sum

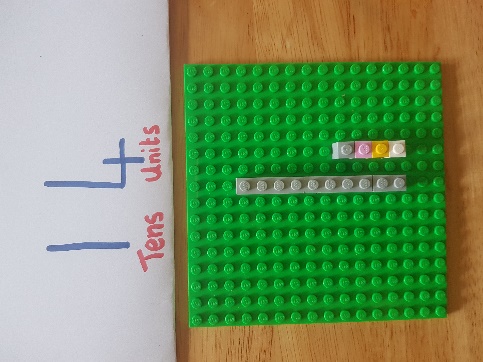
12 – 4 = 8

8 + 4 = 12

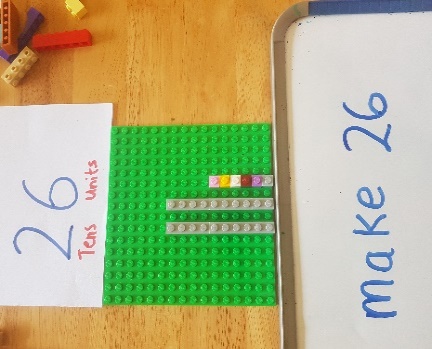




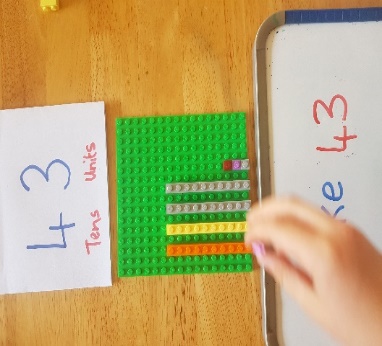
Lego can also help children develop an understanding of place value. This activity below is more suitable for older children.



* The units are broken into single pieces of lego (ones) to make 4.
* The column of 10 is made up of an 8 and 2.



* Your child can be challenged to create higher numbers to help develop an understanding of tens and units.
* It is important to remind them that in 26, there is a 20 and a 6.



43

40 3

(4 tens) (3 units or 3 ones)

* Bottle caps, cutlery, beads or sweets like smarties or buttons can all be used in counting activities and to reinforce understanding.

Mental maths:

Continued practice of mental maths (number bonds and times tables) is important for mental recall. The following websites have games to help improve memory and speed with continued pratice.

* Multiplication:

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/math-trainer-multiply.html>

<https://coolsciencelab.com/math_magician>

* Addition and subtraction:

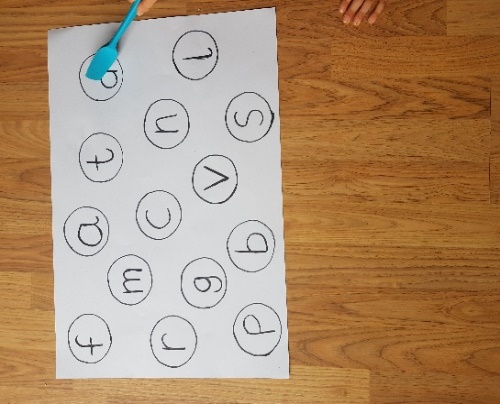
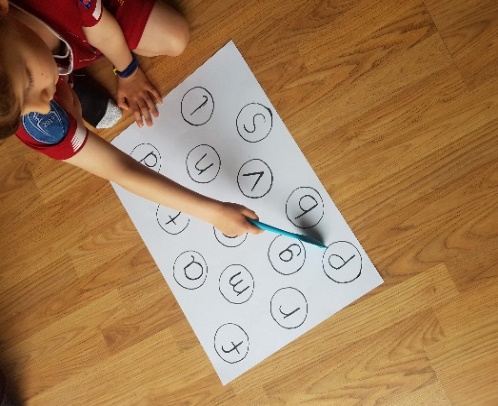
<https://coolsciencelab.com/math_magician_subtraction.html>

<https://coolsciencelab.com/math_magician_addition.html>

**Literacy skills**

Creating simple games to help your child identify letters and sounds and to engage them. All you need is paper and a marker. If you don’t have a large sheet of paper just stick two or three A4 sheets

together.

Some suggestions:

Give your child a spatula or an item to use as a pointer.

* Call out the sound.
* Call out the letter name.
* You could call out words and ask your child to find the initial sound of that word.



* If your child is more confident, they might do a search for toys which have the initial sound and add them to the poster or food.
* As for some of the older children in first and second class they could do an alphabet scavenger hunt. Please see the sheet attached from Twinkl.
* There are also many indoor and outdoor scavenger hunts available online.

Reading comprehension activities can be accessed from the following websites:

* <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/student-activities/>
* <https://www.twinkl.ie/search?term=reading+comprehension>

Daily reading is important and there are lots of free resources available for each age group. Along with those mentioned prior to this please see the online reading resources below.

* <https://readon.myon.co.uk/library/browse.html>
* https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/
* <https://connect.collins.co.uk/School/Portal.aspx>

Click on "Teacher Login" using the following details:

Username: [parents@harpercollins.co.uk](mailto:parents@harpercollins.co.uk)

Password: Parents20! (make sure to put in the exclamation mark)

**Educational and fun free websites:**

<http://toytheater.com/>

* Interactive website with lots of educational games on it for children, which links up with many subjects across the curriculum.

<https://toontastic.withgoogle.com/>

* This is an app which you can download from your playstore.
* Here your child can draw, animate, and narrate your own cartoons. They can create their own story using their own voice and record and store it on their device.

<http://www.livingearth.ie/activities/>

For those interested in the outdoors this website has a lot of information and guidance on how to keep biodiversity alive in our gardens. Some of the lovely outdoor activities it includes for children are:

* Miniature gardens
* Mammal tunnel
* Scavenger hunt
* Garden design for biodiversity
* Biodiversity prints
* Pressed flowers and more

**Meditation**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/NewHorizonHolistic>

* Have a look at this on you tube and you can then download the app for free. Search for New horizon: kids meditation and sleep stories and download it. It includes guided meditations, stories and sleep meditations for children.

[www.louiseshanagher.com/store](http://www.louiseshanagher.com/store)

* Louise Shanagher has some incredibly good meditations such as

Body Scan, Be the Pond and Loving Kindness. She is still

offering her children’s meditation series album free of

charge. It can be downloaded through the following link

Some nice meditations include The Feelings Meditation, Sound Meditation and Balloon.

**Helping with chores:**

Summer is the **perfect time** to get kids involved in helping out around the house. **Teaching responsibility to kids is so important,** and when it comes to teaching responsibility, giving your kids chores is effective. Please find a chore chart uploaded which can be altered in anyway you want.

**Transitioning to secondary school:**

I’ve put the activities below on the website. These can be used as talking points for the children who are moving on to secondary school.

* Transition map (thoughts and feelings about the next step)
* What is responsibility?
* Is Secondary school the same or different to primary school?