



Fun things to do at home

EYFS Development Matters Statements - Prime areas of learning three and four year olds

For children demonstrating learning and development behaviours noted in the left-hand column, here are some suggestions of 'fun things to do at home'. This will help children consolidate their developmental stage in the prime areas of learning and support them to acquire new skills or concepts.

Communication and Language	Things to do	Things you may need
<p>Use a wider range of vocabulary</p> <p>Sing a large repertoire of songs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sing and share nursery rhymes every day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star'; 'Humpty Dumpty'; 'Jack and Jill'; 'Ride a Cock Horse'; 'Mary Mary quite contrary'; '1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Once I caught a Fish Alive'; 'London Bridge is falling down'; 'Hey Diddle Diddle'; 'Baa Baa Black Sheep'; 'Hickory Dickory Dock'; 'Polly put the kettle on'; 'This old man...'; 'Sing a song of sixpence'; 'Little Miss Muffet'; '3 Blind Mice'; 'Ring-a-Ring-o-roses' ...
<p>Enjoy listening to longer stories and can remember much of what happens.</p> <p>Know many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books, and be able to tell a long story</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read stories to your child and chat about the story. Make puppets with your child to help you tell the story. Re-enact the story with the puppets afterwards, encouraging your child to use their own words. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lolly sticks, paper bags, sellotape, felt pens, fabric pieces, paper, card, glue, sequins, ribbon, any bits you have.
<p>Understand 'why' questions, like: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage your child to join in with the story and talk about what's happened and what's going to happen next. 	
<p>Develop their communication but may continue to have problems with irregular tenses and plurals, such as 'runned' for 'ran', 'swimmed' for 'swam'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make your own story books using magazine cuttings or drawings. Ask your child to help build the story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magazines; paper; pencils; crayons
<p>Start a conversation with an adult or a friend and continue it for many turns.</p>		
<p>Be able to express a point of view and to debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions.</p>		

<p>Pay attention to more than one thing at a time, which can be difficult.</p> <p>Understand a question or instruction that has two parts, such as “Get your coat and wait at the door”.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to help you with household tasks such as sorting the laundry, tidying a room, sorting out a drawer, working in the garden and talk all the time. • Describe what you are doing as you work together on tasks and encourage your child to do the same. • Enjoy doing things together and talk whilst you’re doing them, for example making play dough and then playing with it, preparing meals, cleaning the house, gardening, sorting, and putting the washing away. Talk all the time by doing a running commentary on what you and your child are doing. Offer two or three part instructions such as “roll out your dough and use the cutter to make a shape”. • Hard boil some eggs or use pebbles and decorate them with felt pens and small items that can be stuck on such as sequins. • Play a ‘shopping’ game. Set out some items in your pretend ‘shop’ and ask your child to remember the items that you have requested on the shopping list. They can go to the ‘shop’ and put the items in their bag and bring them ‘home’ to you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your home and everything in it. <p><u>Playdough recipe:</u></p> <p><i>You will need:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 tablespoons of plain flour • 8 tablespoons of table salt • 60ml of warm water, any food colouring (optional) • 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil <p><i>Instructions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix the dry ingredients together • Mix the wet ingredients together • Mix the wet and dry ingredients together • Put the dough on a floury surface and knead for a few minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eggs, pebbles, sequins, felt pens. <p>Any items from your pantry/food cupboard</p>
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	<p>If you write a list each time, you and your child can read them when they return 'home' and tick them off.</p> <p>The list can get longer and longer; how many items can they remember? For example, write '2 potatoes' first and let your child go to the 'shop'. Return and check their bag for the items and tick them off the list.</p> <p>Put the potatoes back and write a second list, for example 2 potatoes and three apples and so on. The game continues.</p>	
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Physical Development	Things to do	Things you may need
<p>Continue to develop their movement, balancing, riding (scooters, trikes and bikes) and ball skills.</p> <p>Match their developing physical skills to tasks and activities. For example, they decide whether to crawl, walk or run across a plank, depending on its length and width.</p> <p>Collaborate with others to manage large items, such as moving a long plank safely, carrying large hollow blocks.</p> <p>Skip, hop, stand on one leg and hold a pose for a game like musical statues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make an obstacle course using cushions, chairs, clothes airers, duvets, blankets, pillows and encourage your child to move around, over, under, between, in different ways. Save the more energetic ones for outdoors. • Put number labels on the items to add maths to the activity and encourage your child to move around the items in order. • For a Springtime themed activity, hop like a rabbit, jump like a frog, skip like a lamb and so on. You could make symbols to hold up and each time you swap them, your child must do a different action. Consider swapping roles and you do the actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cushions, chairs, small tables, clothes airers, stools, pillows etc • Home-made number cards/labels
<p>Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors.</p> <p>Show a preference for a dominant hand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use child scissors to cut different materials, cards, paper, greaseproof paper, tissues, kitchen roll, cardboard tubes, foil, straws. • Make models from either construction sets, playdough or junk materials. Allow your child to use safe tools. Talk to your 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe scissors, materials: card, paper, greaseproof paper, tissues, kitchen roll, card tubes, straws • Paper; card; glue, pens; pencils; crayons; different materials for sticking such as cotton wool; straws and foil.

<p>Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.</p> <p>Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan. For example, choosing a spade to enlarge a small hole they dug with a trowel.</p>	<p>child as they work. Discuss what they're doing and make suggestions of how things might be created or adapted. Encourage your child to talk as they work, ask questions such as 'tell me about this bit', 'I wonder why you've put that there...?'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an egg/potato and spoon race, preferably outdoors in your garden if possible. Balance your egg/potato carefully and walk/run as fast as you can. <i>(A handy tip would be to hard boil the eggs first.)</i> You could decorate your eggs/potatoes before the race. • Use child scissors, child knives or kitchen utensils to help prepare food for meals such as chopping, grating, slicing, snipping vegetables, fruit, cheese, and herbs. • Make an egg-shaped book, stapling it to form a binding. Make each page into an Easter or Spring celebration of things you can see or find out about, for example eggs, lambs, new flowers, buds on trees and bushes, sunshine and so on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction sets, playdough, tools – scissors, sticky tape string, paper clips, etc • Junk materials: cardboard boxes of all sizes, paper, card, sticky tape, parcel tape, glue, kitchen roll tubes, yogurt pots, lids, foil/wrapping paper, wallpaper • Small potatoes; boiled eggs and spoons
<p>Start taking part in some group activities which they make up for themselves, or in teams.</p> <p>Increasingly be able to use and remember sequences and patterns of movements which are related to music and rhythm.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play 'Simon Says'. Encourage your child to move vigorously then talk about how they feel (puffed out, breathing deeply, heart moving fast, feeling hot). Try giving two part instructions such as "Simon says jump 5 times and then hop twice". 	<p>Lots of energy!</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eats a healthy range of foodstuffs and understands need for variety in food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take every opportunity to cook together. Discuss what you might make for a meal. Talk about the recipe and ingredients followed by creating your own menu. Talk about how foods are put together and enjoy inviting your child to help you make a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food items

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows understanding of how to transport and store equipment safely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meal. Invite your child to help tidy up. For example, put the washing up away/empty the dishwasher. <p>Teach your child how to do 'jobs' safely, for example, how to carry a pair of scissors carefully, how to put a glass jug in a cupboard, how to stack plates/dishes so that they don't fall.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyday chores at home
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Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Things to do	Things you may need
<p>Develop their sense of responsibility and membership of a community.</p> <p>Select and use activities and resources, with help when needed. This helps them to achieve a goal they have chosen, or one which is suggested to them.</p> <p>Increasingly follow rules, understanding why they are important.</p> <p>Remember rules without needing an adult to remind them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage your child to join in with everyday tasks such as making beds, folding washing, drying up and putting dishes away. Make a list of their 'chores' and place a marble/pebble in a jar each day that they complete them. Plant some seeds in pots on your windowsill and watch them grow. Encourage your child to look after them by watering them and noticing the change that happens. Do some cooking together that may include making some chocolate nests for Easter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your home Compost, small pots and seeds or bulbs Cereal, chocolate, cake cases
<p>Make healthy choices about food, drink, activity and toothbrushing.</p> <p>Collaborate with others to manage large items, such as moving a long plank safely, carrying large hollow blocks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take every opportunity to cook together. Discuss what you might make for a meal. Talk about the recipe and ingredients followed by creating your own menu. Talk about how foods are put together and enjoy inviting your child to help you make a meal. Invite your child to help tidy up. For example, put the washing up away/empty the dishwasher. Work with your child and show them how to carry out 'jobs' safely, for example, how to carry a pair of scissors carefully, how 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food items Everyday chores at home

	to put a glass jug in a cupboard, how to stack plates/dishes so that they don't fall.	
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