



VSK home learning resource booklet



Primary

Early years and pre-school

Dear Carers and Parents

Children in the early years and pre-school age range can be supported by many learning activities at home, which could include:

- Talking and interacting with adults and older children
- Sharing a book every day and talking about the story
- Time for experimenting with writing and drawing using paper, pens, pencils and paint
- Counting and using numbers to add, subtract, count in groups or share out objects
- Encouragement to play independently

You can support your children's learning through engaging in playful activities together, for example setting up a pretend shop would involve writing labels, counting objects, using money and lots of interaction. Try to follow young children's interests: if they want to write about their favourite toy or the best superhero, go with that plan!

Remember that young children do not need to sit at a table for long periods in order to learn at home: vital learning happens through play so it is important to balance any formal learning with opportunities for independent and imaginative activities. Make use of the garden too for scavenger hunts, minibeast safaris, outdoor art and much more or you could try some simple cooking in the kitchen.

We hope you find this guide a useful addition to anything that has been sent home from your child's school.

With Our Best Wishes

The Virtual School Kent Team



Primary

Your school website should have links to online support materials. If not, we have suggested some sites covering a broad range of ages and needs.

Here are a few which are well worth a look but there is a wealth of other resources on the following pages:

National Numeracy: The Family Maths Toolkit

(www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/family-maths-toolkit) offers links to a wide range of numeracy based activities for children.

Oxford University Press: Oxford Owl (www.oxfordowl.co.uk) is an education website covering subjects in the pre-school and primary age range,

Khan Academy: (www.khanacademy.org.uk) this site provides instructional videos for all ages and stages of mathematics.

Booktrust: (www.booktrust.org.uk) a national charity providing resources and support to help children develop a love of reading. Booktrust publishes lists of recommended books by age and books by theme. See also their children's book finder for new book suggestions.

National Literacy Trust: (www.literacytrust.org.uk) a new Family Zone site has been launched in response to the coronavirus outbreak, with literacy activities organised by age-range.

SEND: Useful websites are:

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/category/free-resources/>

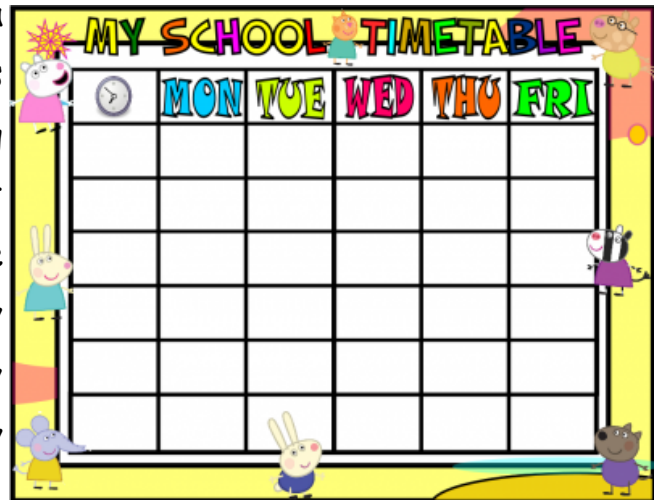
<https://ncse.ie/online-resources>



Planning your days

When children are at school they will not spend long periods of time sat at a desk and their attention span may not be much longer than 40 minutes on any one task.

Therefore, you should try to have a timetable of activities with breaks from more formal learning and allowing physical activity. Try to include at least one session of a maths type activity and one session of a literacy activity each day. Learning takes many forms and can be built into many activities, such as cooking or gardening.



You can also make use of the many online learning opportunities/activities that have become available in response to the coronavirus.

Establishing a routine may take time as you get to know how your young person learns best away from the classroom; some children will prefer a

more formal timetable replicating their school experience closely with a clearly designated learning space set up for them whilst others may benefit from a more flexible, child led approach. It's important to find the approach that works for you and the children in your care. They may also be

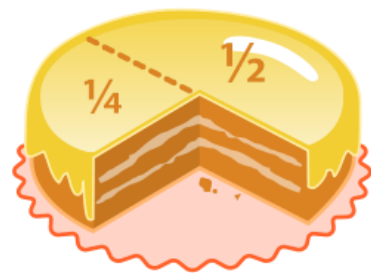
unsettled and concerned about what is going on around them initially and time spent reassuring them and helping them get used to the situation is essential too as this will help their learning in the long term.



Tips for learning at home

Maths

Maths can be delivered in many informal ways, in addition to the more formal tasks provided by the school such as a cooking session involving weighing and measuring. (Making a pizza or a delicious cake is a brilliant opportunity for discussing fractions or learning about measurements)



While out on your once a day walk, look at the house numbers and count in twos or add the numbers on a registration number plate. Older children should keep their mental maths skills sharp so have a few quick fire sums for them to do too.



It is also a good opportunity to continue with Times Tables Rock Stars if your young person has an account. Try to build it in everyday as it is an excellent way to improve times table recall and speed. Contact VSK if you would like more information about TT Rock Stars.



Tips for learning at home

Literacy can be taught through many other activities as it includes:

Speaking and listening activities

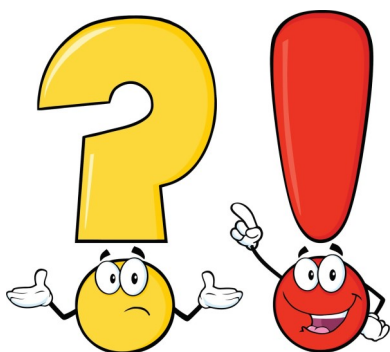
Take time to talk about current events and things they see and hear. This will help reassure them too! Watching Newsround daily on the CBBC website is a great way of helping your children access reliable, age appropriate news. Audio books are a great resource too; why not listen to David Walliams' audio stories?



Writing - stories, poems, jokes, newspaper articles, diaries, letters and labels

Could they write a letter to a school friend who they may not see for some time? Keep a diary or a blog during this strange period of time? Resist the temptation to correct every mistake as this may inhibit creativity! Encourage correct punctuation - full stops, capital letters and spelling of easier words but praise attempts if they use a more challenging, complex word such as 'Tyrannosaurus' or 'infectious'! If your child is interested in particular topics try to plan writing opportunities around these.

Make handwriting fun by looking up jokes, rhymes and short poems to write out in their neatest handwriting and then decorate the border.



Tips for learning at home

Try to include a variety of text types for the child to read, but this will depend on the child's age and stage in reading.

Avoid making it a chore or a struggle -

Reading should be for enjoyment but it can lead to despair if too difficult. Older children could read sections of the newspaper but comics, reference material in books and online as well as fiction books are all good activities.



Take the time to read to your child as well and enjoy this with them. Talk about the story, make predictions about what will happen next and discuss the choice of words used by the author. This helps them to understand the plot, the setting and the characters as well as use of descriptive words. It's all part of their development and will support their writing.



Support young people to write a Book List—listing all the books they plan to read whilst they are at home.



Tips for learning at home

PE

Young children usually have bags of energy so physical activity is important. At school they will have at least two playtimes daily plus PE lessons. PE will include ball activities catching and throwing, skipping, different types of jumping, hop scotch, or just plain running, as well as team sports. Dance is another option or perhaps set up a circuit in the garden with equipment you have around the house.



(Or if you are feeling really energetic, you could all join in with Joe Wicks on YouTube!)



Topic Work

The school may have given you some guidance about geography, history or art topics which were planned to be covered at school. These will give you other ideas about what you can research and find out about at home. Have a think about what other activities you could link to these topics to make them exciting. Consider model making, photography, art work, as well as research linked to the theme. Children love collage and collecting materials would be another activity. Can they make a book or a game linked to the theme?

Keep connected with your child's school staff

Keep in touch with your child's school and check out their newsletters and websites to keep up to date with what is going on. They may provide additional advice and resources as time goes on. Make use of any online learning or lessons makes available for children.



List of suggested websites for supporting learning activities

Name of Provider	Link Address	E Y FS	K S 1	K S 2	S E N D
Action for Children : support and advice for parents / carers	www.actionforchildren.org.uk	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amazing Education: On line learning (American)	http://www.amazingeducationalresources.com/	✓	✓	✓	✓
Audio Books David Walliams audio books	https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
BBC learning : Old site but still useful	http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/coursesearch/	✓	✓	✓	✓
BBC Bite Size : Games, assessments, lessons	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/	✓	✓	✓	
BBC Teach: Live lessons	www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons	✓	✓	✓	
Big Eyed Owl: Range of activities for KS1	www.BigEyedOwl.co.uk	✓	✓	✓	
Blue Peter badges: You will need a stamp!	https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges		✓	✓	
Book trust : stories and books	www.booktrust.org	✓	✓	✓	✓
British council: Learning English and other cultures	https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find	✓	✓	✓	✓
British Science: Science workbooks	https://www.britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/activity-packs/		✓	✓	
Captain Fantastic : Online toddler group	https://facebook.com/events/s/free-online-toddler-group/247799796254003/?tl=icl	✓			
Cbeebies Radio: Listening activities for the younger ones	https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio	✓			
Carol Vorderman: Maths resources	https://www.themathsfactor.com	✓	✓	✓	
Chatterpack: On line learning	https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/resources-list-for-home-learning	✓	✓	✓	✓

List of suggested websites for supporting learning activities

Name of Provider	Link Address	E Y FS	K S 1	K S 2	S E N
Childhood: Yoga exercises	https://www.childhood101.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
Code.org: Free fun coding activities	https://code.org/	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corbett Maths : Maths worksheets, videos and test papers	https://www.corbettmaths.com	✓	✓	✓	
Crickweb: Interactive games, maths and English	www.crickweb.co.uk	✓	✓	✓	✓
Country Living: Live animal webcams to watch at home	https://www.countryliving.com/uk/wildlife/countryside/g31784857/live-animal-webcam-zoo/	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crest Awards: Science awards to do from home	https://www.crestawards.org	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Walliams Audio: Free daily audio book	https://bit.ly/AudioElevenes		✓	✓	✓
DK Find Out: variety of topics	https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/		✓	✓	
Early Years learning : Maths, English resources	https://earlylearninghq.org.uk	✓			
Early Years Maths : Creative, fun maths	https://family.co	✓			
Family Days Out : Virtual tours of World museums, educational sites and galleries	https://www.familydaystriedandtested.com/free-virtual-tours-of-world-museums-educational-sites-galleries-for-children/	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family Learning: SENDresources	www.familylearning.org.uk				✓
Fizz Pop Science : Live interactive science lessons	https://www.fizzpopscience.co.uk	✓	✓	✓	✓

List of suggested websites for supporting learning activities

Name of Provider	Link Address	E Y FS	K S 1	K S 2	S E N
Forish Early Years : Shape hunt	https://www.facebook.com/118807798323655/post/1229155090622248/	✓			
Foundation Years: Early years parent led activities	https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/what-to-expect-when-1.pdf	✓			
Fun English : English games and interactive lessons	www.funenglishgames.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gardeners World: Gardening activities	https://www.gardenersworld.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
Go Go Yoga: Yoga exercises	https://www.gogoyogakids.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
Go Noodle : Physical activities	http://www.gonoodle.com/	✓	✓	✓	
Google: free tours of art galleries	https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heartfulness : relaxation resources	https://www.heartfulness.uk/?utm_source=DIGITALNRG&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Meditation_National&gclid=EAlaIqObChMIktyPxeay6AIVCbLtCh3JvggOEAYASAAEgJklvD_BwE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Horrible Histories : history activities and videos	https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/shows/horrible-histories			✓	▪
Hungry little minds: interactive activities and games	https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/	✓	✓	▪	✓
Inclusive Teach : SEN resources and printouts	https://www.inclusiveteach.com	✓			✓
Jo Jo Gnomes : Podcast stories	https://jojognome.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joe Wicks daily workout : PE activities for fitness	https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyCLOpd4VxBvPHOpzoEk5onAEbq40g2-k	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jump start : instructions and ideas for creative play, art and craft	www.jumpstart.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
Khan Academy : Maths and computing for all ages	https://www.khanacademy.org	✓	✓	✓	

List of suggested websites for supporting learning activities

Name of Provider	Link Address	E Y FS	K S 1	K S 2	S E N
Learn in Colour: Maths, science and social studies	https://www.learincolour.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
Literacy Trust : Early words and speech	https://literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/early-words-together/early-words-together-two/	✓			
Literacy Trust : Communicaiton skills	https://literacytrust.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/home-learning-environment/small-talk/	✓			
Mathsphere : Maths worksheets, booklets and games	www.mathsphere.co.uk		✓	✓	
Mother Could : Sensory play recipes	https://mailchi.mp/89e346c118ac/sensoryrecipes	✓	✓		✓
Mr Barton's Maths: Maths activities and resources	http://mrbartonmaths.com/index.html	✓	✓	✓	✓
Museum Tours : Virtual tour of museums around the World.	www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours			✓	▪
Mystery Science: Science experiments and investigations	https://mysteryscience.com/	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nasa: Space resources	www.nasa.gov.kidsclub		✓	✓	✓
National Geographic Kids: Activities and quizzes	https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nature Detectives: Outside activities	http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/menu/	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nature Detectives: Outside activities	https://naturedetecti.woodlandtrust.org/naturedetectives	✓	✓	✓	✓
Net Mums : Education packs	https://www.netmums.com/coronavirus/best-free-educational-resources	✓	✓	✓	
Newsround: keep up to date with current affairs	https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround	▪	▪	✓	✓
NHS: Exercises and Healthy lifestyles	www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities	✓	✓	✓	✓
NHS: Speech & language resources	https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/childrens-therapies-the-pod/speech-and-language-therapy/early-years-language/	✓	✓	✓	✓

List of suggested websites for supporting learning activities

Name of Provider	Link Address	E Y FS	K S 1	K S 2	S E N
NRICH: maths resources, puzzles and problems (with solutions!)	https://nrich.maths.org/	✓	✓	✓	▪
Open Culture: Video lessons e-books and Apps	www.openculture.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oxford Owl for home : English and maths	https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/		✓	✓	
Phonics play : Phonics lessons and resources	https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk	✓	✓		
Pixi Maths : Maths resources	https://www.piximaths.co.uk		✓	✓	
Prodigy Maths : Maths games for primary ages	https://www.prodigygame.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red Ted Art : Arts and crafts	https://www.redtedart.com		✓	✓	
RNLI: Resources about water safety	https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources/activity-sheets-and-posters	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scratch & Scratch Junior: Creative computer programming	https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/		✓	✓	▪
SEN : SEN resources	www.senresource.co.uk				✓
Sensory Play : Early years resource	https://www.earlyyearsresources.co.uk	✓	✓		✓
Shodor: Maths interactive lessons, tasks and games	http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/	✓	✓	✓	
Singing Hands: Sign language	https://www.facebook.com/SingingHands/	✓	✓	✓	✓
Skill workshop: General curriculum resources	www.skillworkshorkshop	✓	✓	✓	✓
Teachit Primary: Lots of resources for many subjects including helping children to understand about the coronavirus.	https://www.teachitprimary.co.uk/home	✓	✓	✓	✓

List of suggested websites for supporting learning activities

Name of Provider	Link Address	E Y FS	K S 1	K S 2	S E N
TedEd home : educational videos	https://www.ed.ted.com/	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Artful Parent : Good free art activities	https://www.facebook.com/artfulparent/	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Imagination Tree: Arts and crafts	https://theimaginationtree.com		✓	✓	
The kids should see this: Cool educational videos for children to watch	https://thekidshouldseethis.com/	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Literacy Shed: Films to support literacy	https://www.literacyshed.com/home.html			✓	▪
The Literacy Shed: Films to support KS1	https://www.literacyshed.com/the-ks1-shed.html	✓	✓	▪	▪
The Planets : Science	https://theplanets.org/best-science-kits-for-kids/		✓	✓	
The Week Junior: Current affairs magazine	www.theweekjunior.co.uk		▪	✓	
Tinkercad: All kinds of making	https://www.tinkercad.com		▪	▪	
Topmarks : English interactive work, games and tasks	https://www.topmarks.co.uk/	✓	✓	✓	
Triominos: Maths games	Triominos, £12.49			✓	
Twinkl: Maths and literacy resources	https://www.twinkl.co.uk/	✓	✓	✓	✓
Virtual author : Online story time by authors	https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-author-activities	✓	✓	✓	✓
Virtual Schools Activities : Live webcam tutors, virtual tours and other creative academic tasks	https://virtualschoolactivities.com/	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yoga in my school : Yoga exercises	https://www.yogainmyschool.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yoga Kids : Yoga exercises	https://www.kidsyogastories.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yoga Resources : Yoga exercises	https://www.thekidsyogaresource.com	✓	✓	✓	✓



We hope we have given you some inspiration as you take on the additional challenge of educating the young people in your care. VSK staff are on hand to support you in any way we can, so if you are stuck for ideas, please [contact us!](#) We will do all that we can to support you and the children through this very difficult time.

Stay safe everyone!

Loved Ones

Dear family, friends and loved ones,
Brothers, sisters, daughters and sons,
Grandmas, grandpas, uncles and aunts too,
I'm talking to the whole crew:
I know we all have to keep apart,
But soon enough, we'll have a fresh start.

This is just a reminder,
Although this may be a long road,
Please remember,
I love you loads!

Poem by Tia
VSK Participation Team

