

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:



- Encourage your child to **become involved** in making a simple breakfast or lunch and to tidy up. Let them wash their own dishes. This will provide your child with independence and a sense of achievement.
- Encourage your child to use their **initiative** and make decisions about what they are going to do and how they are going to do it. For example, getting a bath, mop up a spill, etc.

Early Mathematical Experiences:



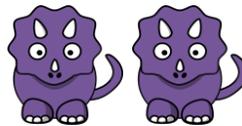
- **Dinosaur Footprint** - Get a very large piece of paper, box, or card, and draw a simple outline of a dinosaur's foot. Ask your child to find as many pairs of shoes to fit into the dinosaur's foot. Encourage them to guess - 'How many pairs of shoes do you think will fit in?'
- Painting **Ladybird** pebbles - Collect around 5 pebbles, paint/colour each one red. Encourage your child to paint 1 dot on 1 pebble, 2 dots on another, 3 dots on another and so on. You will have a family of beautiful numbered ladybirds.

World Around Us:



- **Minibeasts** - Make your own mud dough (*see recipe on page 4*). If you have any plastic creatures, encourage your child to press onto the dough to make imprints. You can also use leaves, flowers and other materials. Try to make fossils.
- **Life Cycle of a Butterfly** - Your child may have a natural curiosity for living creatures. Talk to your child about the life cycle of a butterfly.
 - The Very Hungry Caterpillar is one of our favourite books and it is a great way of explaining and understanding the life cycle of a butterfly.

May 2021



Dinosaurs

&

Minibeasts

Home
Learning



Language Development:



- Reading books with parents helps to develop new words, phrases and imagination. Please see puppets that can be cut out and stuck onto a lollipop stick to extend your child's thinking and imagination. See link below to '**My Grandpa is a Dinosaur**'.
www.youtubekids.com/watch?v=i2tQEa4i1iU&hl=en-GB
- **Writing** - Encourage your child to hold a pencil or piece of chalk. Let them mark-make or scribble and/or attempt to write their own name.
- See **GRTL** of SNS website for "**Bubble Play**". Blowing bubbles is a great activity to help child develop muscles in the mouth that are needed to speak.

Physical Development & Movement:



- Check out the **GRTL** tab to see "Physical Skills for 3-4 year olds."
- If you have a **paintbrush** and water, let your child paint your fence or the outside of your home. Your child will have so much fun, and he/she will be developing fine motor skills.
- See **Home Learning** tab on SNS website. Look for the document "Physical Activities for May."



The Arts:



- **Butterfly Printing** - Use different colours of paint and paint both your child's hands. Let the different colours mix together. Then, encourage your child to keep his/her thumbs together, and print on the piece of paper or card. Cut around your child's hand prints in the shape of a butterfly.
- Please see **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** in **Home Learning** tab. Cut out and encourage your child to re-enact the story. You can work together to make up your own song about the caterpillar or use the one we sing in Nursery (see next page). This activity will provide your child with the ability to develop their imaginative skills.



Easy Jam Tarts



Ingredients:

- 500g sweet shortcrust pastry
- 20 tsp jam (*pick your favourite jam!*)

Method:

- (1) Roll out the shortcrust pastry onto a lightly floured surface to just under the thickness of £1 coin.
- (2) Stamp out 5cm (approx.) circles using a cutter or container lid and line 2 muffin tins. You should have approximately 20 circles.
- (3) Prick with a fork and spoon 1 tsp of jam into each.
- (4) Stamp out shapes from leftover pastry to decorate tarts.
- (5) Bake at 200C/180 fan/gas 6 for 12-15 minutes, until the pastry is golden

Songs & Rhymes



The Dinosaurs Went...

(Tune: The Wheels on the Bus)

The **Pteranodon's** wings went FLAP, FLAP, FLAP,
FLAP, FLAP, FLAP, FLAP, FLAP, FLAP,
The Pteranodon's wings went FLAP, FLAP, FLAP,
All through the swamp.

The **Tyrannosaurs Rex** went GRR, GRR, GRR,
GRR, GRR, GRR, GRR, GRR, GRR,
The Tyrannosaurs Rex went GRR, GRR, GRR,
All through the swamp.

The **Triceratops** horns went POKE, POKE, POKE,
POKE, POKE POKE, POKE, POKE, POKE,
The Triceratops horns went POKE, POKE, POKE,
All through the swamp.

The **Brontosaurus** went MUNCH, MUNCH, MUNCH,
MUNCH, MUNCH, MUNCH, MUNCH, MUNCH, MUNCH,
The Brontosaurus went MUNCH, MUNCH, MUNCH,
All around the swamp.

The **Stegosaurus** tail went SPIKE, SPIKE, SPIKE,
SPIKE, SPIKE, SPIKE, SPIKE, SPIKE, SPIKE,
The Stegosaurus tail went SPIKE, SPIKE, SPIKE,
All around the swamp.

Songs & Rhymes



There's a Tiny Caterpillar on a Leaf

There's a tiny **caterpillar** on a leaf, **wiggle, wiggle.** (action)
There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf, **wiggle, wiggle.**
There's a tiny caterpillar, a tiny caterpillar,
There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf, **wiggle, wiggle.**

He will eat the **leaves** around him 'til he's full, **munch,**
munch, (action)
He will eat the leaves around him 'til he's full, **munch, munch,**
He will eat the leaves around him, eat the leaves around him,
He will eat the leaves around him 'til he's full **munch munch**

A **cocoon** is what he's spinning for his home, **spin, spin,**
(action)
A cocoon is what he's spinning for his home, **spin, spin,**
A cocoon is what he's spinning, a cocoon is what he's spinning,
A cocoon is what he's spinning for his home, **spin, spin.**

Then he'll be a **butterfly** and fly away, **flap, flap,** (action)
Then he'll be a butterfly and fly away, **flap, flap,**
He'll be a butterfly, be a butterfly,
Then he'll be a butterfly and fly away, **flap, flap.**



Mud Dough Recipe



Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 2tsp cream of tartar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup salt
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 cup of boiling water
- Instant coffee

Method:

- (1) Mix all dry ingredients into a bowl.
- (2) Add vegetable oil.
- (3) Add coffee to boiling water and let it dissolve.
- (4) Mix and then knead dough until smooth.



Other Useful Ideas on Home Learning tab:

- **NI Forest Schools** - The weather is great! Encourage your child to go outside to explore with the suggested activities:
 - Sounds of Spring
 - Butterfly Colouring Page
- The **Very Hungry Caterpillar** sequence activity
- **Shape Dinosaur** - Cut out the shapes for your child and encourage your child to design their own dinosaur
- **Woodland Pack** - Enjoy exploring the outdoors together.