

Márta/March Aibreán/April**Phonics/ Fónaic**

In the Náiscoil we started to teach the children about the sound at the beginning of their names and how it was written (symbols with first letter). We also began work on some visual sounds with the help of our speech and language therapist. (sounds that your child can visually see you making with your mouth).

We began to explore the 'S', 'M' and 'F' sounds. You can continue to practice these and more sounds at home with your children in English. This will in turn help their Irish too. 'S' make a hissing sound. 'M' make a 'mmm' sound and rub your belly. 'F' show your teeth and draw a bunny rabbit.

Activities:

Take one sound each week. Draw each sound on a piece of paper or whiteboard. Do not place much emphasis on the letter but focus on the sound.

Then gather items in your home that begin with the sound you are working on. For the 'S' sound for example; a sock, salt, a toy snake, santa. Be careful not to use items with the 'sh' sound and try to stick to items that have the 's' sound at the beginning. Apply this to each different sound.

- Put the items in a bag/box and ask your child to pick one and say what it is aloud stressing the sound at the beginning of the word.
- To make it harder place items with another sound such as 'm' into the bag and ask the child to sort the items and place them near the correct sound (written out on a page).
- You can then add different items not belonging to the sound you are working on and have a 'bin' or box for those which the children can place them into if the items do not match the sounds.

Jolly Phonics: Use this link to listen to the sounds and practice the songs and actions with your children. Do not worry if your child does not recognise the sounds as we have only begun structured phonic work in the last two weeks to help the children when they go into Rang 1. Each child will also learn at their own pace 😊

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2HYM9VXz9k>

Literacy/ Litearthacht

The most valuable thing you can do during this time is read to your child. Read all types of books in English/Irish/Spanish or any other language you may have and allow them to join in. They can describe what they are seeing, predict what is coming next, tell you their favourite character or part of the story.

Activities:

Talk to your child about food, animals and animal sounds, the signs of spring, new life, farms, gardens, flowers, trees and healthy foods. Expose them to as much vocabulary as possible, ask them questions and have meaningful conversations with them. Look at the vocabulary sheets I have provided about travel, spring-new life and growth in Irish and try to say the words with your children. They should already be familiar with some of them and they can teach you some Gaeilge too 😊.

Songs- Practice all the songs in the March Newsletter and let your children listen to the Naíscoil CD if possible.

Letters- We had begun trying to get the children to recognise the first letter in their name using different magnetic letters and asking them to identify the correct one. We then began showing them their name written down and asking them to pick out the correct letters from magnetic letters.

- They can try to recognise the correct letters from letters you may have at home. If not, you can create letters from paper and cut them out.
- Children can practice drawing the letter in the air and then writing the first letter of their name. They can move on to writing their full name by copying it out on paper or on a whiteboard.
- You can also make letter shapes using stones, flowers or any creative materials you have in your house.



Work on **prepositions** in English or Irish if you can- use different items in the house and place them accordingly. For example; ‘Where is Teddy?’ Encourage your child to answer using full sentences.

“Teddy is inside the box.”

Work on in front, under, beside, behind, between and move teddy accordingly. Use any characters you can find.

inside-istigh under-faoin
on- ar an between-idir
beside- in aice leis

**Numeracy/ Uimhearthacht**

We were exploring the colour green and looking for patterns. We were matching items to one criterion for example; everything in this circle is green or small or big. We were counting to 20 in Irish/English and beginning to count objects with one-to-one correspondence.

Activities:

Colours/ patterns: Look for green items in your home. Talk about the different shades of green. Apply this to any colour.

Sorting: Use hoops/ circles or cushions to sort different objects using one criterion for example; try and collect as many small items as possible.

One- to-one correspondence: Try to get your child to count using one-to-one correspondence. We had begun working on this, but it can take a long time for a child to grasp this concept so practice and do not get disheartened if they have not mastered it.



**ONE-TO-ONE
CORRESPONDENCE**



Use any toys your child enjoys playing with for example; dinosaurs, or blocks or dolls. Ask your child to count each item. Teach them to lift the item and count it as 'one' and place it down again.

It involves touching each object and saying the numeral name aloud. A lot of children will count aloud quickly skipping out objects or count an object twice. Practice with a small number of items and build this up.

Vocab:

Beag- small

Measártha- medium

Mór- big

Glas- green

Fine-motor skills/ Scileanna mínluaileacha

We were working on our scissor skills continually. Continue to allow your child to cut and practice these skills. 😊 They were painting, using finer brushes and drawing with thick pencils. Their pictures were becoming more developed. It is important to allow children to explore and draw freely but it is also important to show them how to draw a flower, a person, a happy face. Don't be afraid to show them and allow them to copy too. They love drawing rainbows, sunny days and their Mammies and Daddies!

Activities:



Gross-motor skills/ Scileanna oll-luaileacha

We were developing a range of different gross-motor skills each day in the Nursery. You can continue to work on these at home easily. These are two main areas that we were working on in March.

Vestibular skills- Swinging, riding a tricycle, rocking in a rocking chair or on a rocking horse, sliding down a slide, rolling, trampolining, bouncing.

Eye-hand coordination skills- rolling balls and catching balls. Start with a bigger ball and move on to a smaller ball. Encourage your child to use their whole body and not just their arms.

Get the children out in the fresh air and allow them to run, kick a ball, skip, jump, play hopscotch, do star jumps. If it becomes more difficult to go outside here are some indoor examples which can be found on this link:

<https://www.themeasuredmom.com/indoor-gross-motor-activities/>

vocab:

ball- Liathróid

Bike- rothar

Horse- capall up- suas

Run- rith down-síos

Kick- cic

Jump-léim

Active songs

Some active songs the children particularly enjoy in the Náiscoil. I will record myself singing them but most of the children will know them off by heart.

The wiggles

“We’re going to stretch, stretch, stretch our wiggles out.../ stretch, stretch, stretch our wiggles out, stretch stretch, stretch our wiggles out, wiggle them all away...let’s wiggle...”
Repeat with a different action.

Open, shut them

Open, shut them, open shut them, give a little clap, open shut them, open shut them, put them on your lap. Creep them, creep them, creep them, creep them, right up to your chin, open wide your little smile, but do not let them in.

(Musical Pathways)

Copy me

Copy, copy, copy me too, I do this, and you do it too. Do an action for example; touch your head and sing this. Repeat with a different action.

Songs and educational programmes in Irish to watch:

Type these into youtube.

Bongo Bongo TV Nursery Rhymes – Have a range of rhymes/songs translated into Irish.

DIY Mammy (Irish educational videos)

TG Lurgan (Chart songs translated in Irish and sung).

Please continue to say:

Maidin Mhaith- Good morning in Irish to the children.

Ask them how they are feeling in Irish. ‘**sásta**’- happy

Say **Oíche Mhaith-** Goodnight in Irish.

Go raibh maith agaibh. Thank you, Clíona