



Cloughoge Nursery Newsletter 2020



April



Ag foghlaim 's ag fás le grá

Dear Parents,

It is with a very heavy heart and with a great sense of sadness that we write to you all today. Little did we think that school would be closed for the unforeseeable future when we were saying goodbye to you and your child on the 13th March. We as a school family and as a nation are facing very difficult times and it is so hard to make sense of how things are unfolding every day.

Be comforted in the fact that our children are very resilient and they often cope much better than we do as adults. However, I'm sure they are missing the routine of school, the company of their friends while trying to make sense of everything that's going on around them.

We have included a few little practical everyday things that you might like to follow. Please feel free to use these. We have suggested rhymes for this month based on counting and we included some websites you may find useful. Each month we will suggest a different skill that you can practise with your child.

It is important to try to establish some sort of routine, as we all know that routine is very important for young children.

You can use this as an opportunity to spend quality time with your child and reflect on the simple everyday things of life.....exploring the outdoors, looking at nature, listening to the birds sing, identifying and naming some of birds and spring flowers, looking for signs of Spring and growth, naming the parts of the plants(buds, stem, leaves, petals) planting seeds, digging in the garden, growing vegetables, rolling in the grass, going for a nature walk, helping to peg washing on a clothes horse, washing your bike, playing with bubbles, bathing the dolls.....the simple things that we have almost forgotten in our busy lives.

Share life skills with your child, encouraging them to make their bed, fold their clothes, dress themselves, set the table, chop vegetables, cook, bake, talk, listen, read and of course PLAY, the thing which children do naturally

We ask you to please offer a prayer each day for our school family, asking St Moninna to watch over and care for each and every one of us in our school and in the Parish of Killeavey at this difficult time. We also remember all those parents who are working in the frontline and for those in our school, who are experiencing sickness related to this virus. Don't forget all those grandparents, who are maybe feeling a bit isolated at this time. Keep in regular contact with them and get your child to face time or talk to them every day if possible- even if it is just to say a little rhyme together, sing a song or say a prayer together. The most important thing at this time is to stay safe and to support each other in your family unit and community. Keep encouraging your child to wash their hands regularly. In the words of Seamus Heaney- " If we can Winter this one out, we can Summer anywhere"
Keep safe and Keep positive. Please God we will see you all soon

The Nursery Team



April

Focus of the Month

Theme- Spring/ Growing
Zipping / buttoning our coats

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Put on some upbeat music and dance with your child in the house. This will help boost every-ones mood during these difficult times. Stay positive

Physical Development + Movement

As we will be preparing to go to Primary One soon, we would ask you to practise some important skills with your child, like zipping and buttoning up coats. We have been working on this skill recently. Practice kicking a ball against a wall

Language Development and Experiences

Retell parts of a story they know e.g Red riding hood, the three bears or whatever story they like. Enjoy a story with your child when possible.

Early Maths

The children are beginning to show a greater awareness and interest in counting. Please reinforce this by going over number rhymes, counting aloud, talking about their age, the size on their jumper, tee-shirt, shoes etc...the number on their door, phone numbers....look for numbers around us... perhaps go on a number hunt !!! See enclosed rhymes

World Around Us.

Show an awareness of new born animals talk about baby animals and look at pictures of animals and their babies on the internet. Baby lambs, chicks, look at baby frogs and how they grown from egg, frogspawn, tadpole frog. Watch plants spring flowers growing.

The Arts

Let children explore with pencils, crayons or whatever materials you have available. Let them make their marks on pages .
We will also enclose a recipe for playdough.

List of useful websites to support this learning

Stories.audible.com

parade.com

Spring song for children "Springtime" Youtube

Topmarks.co.uk Spring/ Songs/

Google Come Outside- Episode guide BBC

Come Outside Series 3 frogs (Aunt Mabel)

Come Outside Bulbs

Come outside Carrots

Come Outside Eggs

Come Outside Rabbits

Google-Clap clap kids-kids stories -nursery rhymes

The singing walrus- counting songs.

www.rspb.org.uk (Birds)

Youtube Yala Kids Channel Animals and their babies...

Google Singing hands- Makaton signs with songs.

www.dublinczoo.ie/animals/animal-webcams

Recipe for Playdough

This is the recipe we use with the children to make their own dough. It's a good idea to get them help measure the ingredients first and perhaps count out how many spoons of flour will give us a cupful etc....

1 cup of flour

1\2 cup of salt in a bowl

Then stir in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water. If too dry when mixed add another little bit of water.

Knead it with your hands. If the dough gets too sticky add another little bit of flour.

If you want to add colour to it divide it out and add food colouring or washable paint. About 5 to 10 drops. Knead the dough to mix it in.

Store in a plastic bag in the fridge. The children will get endless enjoyment from this activity.

Rhymes for the Month of April

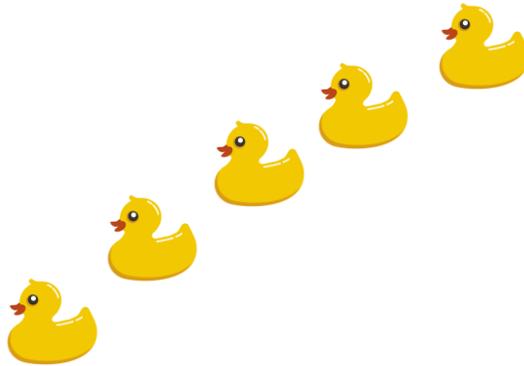
Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went swimming one day,
Over the hill and far away.

Mummy duck said,
Quack, quack, quack, quack.
But only four little ducks came back.

Four little ducks went swimming one day,
Over.....etc

But no little ducks came swimming back,
So Mummy duck said,
QUACK, QUACK, QUACK, QUACK.
And five little ducks came swimming back.



Five Little Speckled Frogs

Five little speckled frogs,
Sat on a speckled log.
Eating the most delicious worms
YUM, YUM.

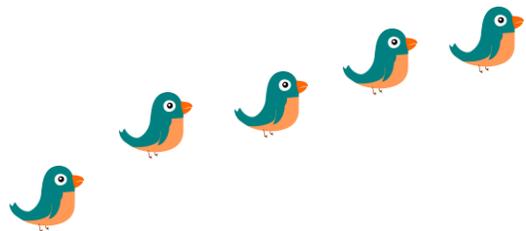
One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool.
Then there were four green speckled frogs
GLUG, GLUG.
Four little speckled frogs,
Continue until all the frogs have gone.



Five Little Birdies

Five little birdies, flying around our door,

The blue one flew away and then there were four.
Four little birdies sitting in a tree,
The yellow one flew away and then there were three.
The little birdies didn't know what to do,
So the red one flew away, and then there were two.
Two little birdies sitting in the sun,
The Brown one flew away, and there was one.
The little green birdie felt so all alone,
He/she flew away and then there was none



One, Two, Buckle My Shoe
One, two, buckle my shoe,
Three, four, open the door,
Five, six, pick up sticks,
Seven, eight, lay them straight,
Nine, ten, the big fat hen,

One, Two, Three, Four, Five
Once I caught a fish alive,
Then I let it go again.

Why did you let it go? Because it bit my finger so, Which finger did it bite?
This little finger on the right.

