



Activities to help you get ready for school

Personal, Social and Emotional

Joining in games and activities with others.	Playing board games together to encourage turn taking and sharing.
Encourage children to talk about how they are feeling.	Talk with children about their interests and what they are doing.

Communication and Language

Enjoy lots of conversations together.	Talking about what they have done each day- maybe over dinner. Can they recall what they have done?
When looking at books together- talk about the story, what is happening? Can they retell their favourite stories?	Play listening games like Simon says and treasures hunts- e.g. can you find me 4 pieces of Lego, can you find me a red car.
Play games to build up vocabulary	Role play different scenarios- let them act out different roles e.g. going to the shop, to the café etc

Physical Development

Practice getting dressed, putting your shoes on and putting on your coat.	Go for walks in the woods- let your child climb on fallen trees / logs, climb hills, paddle in streams. (Swithland woods and the outwoods are great places for this!)
Make a dressing board with poppers, buttons, buckles and zips.	Let children use different equipment to make marks indoors and outdoors. E.g. chalks on the patio, wax crayons on tinfoil, felt tip pens on old wallpaper / large paper, wax crayons on wood, sticks to make patterns in the mud/sand.
Go out on their bike or scooter.	Practice going to the toilet independently and washing hands.
Set up an obstacle course indoors or in your garden so they can practice their gross motor skills and balance.	When we are allowed to- go to the play park and climb on the equipment
Playdough- using a rolling pin and cutters, dough disco (look on utube), making cupcakes with the playdough, making play food, using it to make a treasure island and adding scenery.	Building dens with fabric, pegs, clothes horse.
Using scissors to cut out toys from a magazine or following trails on paper.	



English

Recognising and reading their name	<p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Read lots of stories together *Look at picture books together and ask your child what is happening in the book *use puppets to re tell stories / make up stories *Make props and costumes and act out stories. *Have a bedtime story all snuggled up each day <p>Starting school story books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Usborne first experience: Going to School *Harry and the dinosaurs go to school *Starting school by Janet and Allan Ahlberg *Lucy and Tom go to school
Having a try at writing their name using different equipment- e.g. writing name with a stick in the sand or mud, magnetic letters, chalks outdoors, with playdough, wax crayons on tinfoil, using their finger in hair gel or shaving foam.	
Play I spy- in the house or when you are on a walk- practicing hearing initial sounds	
Initial sound silly soup- choose a sound and then children have to find things around the house beginning with that sound and put them in a bowl. Each time they collect something they can give it a stir.	
Singing or reading nursery rhymes	

Mathematics

Number rhymes- 5 current buns, 5 speckled frogs, 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive, 5 little ducks, 5 fat sausages You can use props to support this.	Make a magic potion- by counting out different ingredients.
Number bingo	Board games that use a dice and number recognition.
Collecting sticks on a walk- count them, put them in order of size.	Counting out toys
Number hunt – around the house or while you are on a walk.	Go on a shape hunt around the house or outdoors- children could take photos of the different shapes.

Understanding the World

Plant some seeds in the garden- what do they need to grow? Watch them grow over time. Children will enjoy watering them each day.	Go on a minibeast hunt while you are on a walk or in the garden- talk about what they find.
Make a family tree	Make ice pots- find natural items from a walk e.g. leaves, pebbles etc. put them in a pot and freeze overnight- look at the changes. Children can then watch the pot melt the next day or they can chisel away at it with a stick or golf tee and children's hammer.
Go for walks in different places e.g. the woods, over fields, parks, in the town/village.	



Expressive Art and Design

Create a picture or pattern using loose parts, such as stones, sticks, shells, cotton reels, pasta shapes, fir cones, leaves or curtain rings.	Make a junk model- Find different items in your home and make a model of your favourite thing.
Role play- set up a café, shop, school, fire station, car wash. Children can make and find props and they can act out the different roles.	Have a disco in your front room with lots of dancing
Make instruments out of junk.	Let children have a variety of creative materials to create their own things e.g. Sellotape, paper, crayons, buttons, pipe cleaners, feathers, scissors, lolly pop sticks, stickers, post its (anything you already have)