

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:



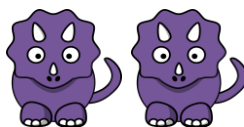
- **Dinosaur Footprint** - Get a very large piece of paper, box, or card, and draw a simple outline of a dinosaur's foot. Ask your child to find as many pairs of shoes to fit into the dinosaur's foot. Encourage them to guess - 'How many pairs of shoes do you think will fit in?'
- Painting **Ladybird** 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.**"



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

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.

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.