

Garretts Green Nursery School



Fun to Learn

What is 'Fun to Learn'?

We are often asked for ideas for how you can support your child's learning at home.

Fun to Learn is designed to help you to help your child, providing you with ideas which are interesting and fun for both you and your child.



**Remember
to have
fun!**

How does Fun to Learn work?

We ask you to decorate a box of your choice which we hope you will bring into school.

This activity will be the first of several which we will send out over time.

Activity Time

- * One of the most important things that you can do to help your child at home is very simple.....spend some uninterrupted time talking to your child and listening to their ideas.
- * When you receive your Fun to Learn tasks we will also give you some of the materials you need to complete the task.
- * Please spend a little time talking about what you are going to do and what you will need to collect for the activity.
- * We will tell you how the task helps your child's development.
- * When you have finished the task we would love to see what you have

Please bring your box to Nursery to share the Wonderful work you have done together.

Garretts Green Nursery School



Fun to Learn



Remember to
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Activity Timetable

Activity 1: Making a treasure box.

Please bring to school by Wednesday 10th February
2016

Activity 2: Writing in flour or sand and glitter.

Please send or bring a photograph to school on our
Family Workshop on Wednesday 2nd March 2016

Activity 3: Coat hanger mobile.

Please send or bring a photograph to school or bring in
your hanger by Tuesday 12th April 2016

Activity 4: Jigsaw puzzle.

Please send or bring a photograph to school or bring in
your puzzle by Friday 20th May 2016

Activity 5: Painting with water

Please send in or bring a photograph by Friday 17th
June 2016

Activity 6: Using a puppet to tell a story

Please send or bring a photograph by July 15th 2016

Please bring your work or a photograph
to share the work you have done together.



Garretts Green Nursery School

February 2016

Fun to Learn

Key Points

Providing children with the opportunity to see, touch, hold and feel things around them is a great learning experience.

By participating in this project and following the activity sheets, we hope that you and your child will have fun playing and learning together.



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Things to talk about

This task has two parts: to make or decorate the box and then decide what you will collect.

Explore the cupboards in your home together and discuss with your child what to collect in your 'Treasure' box.

Talk about different objects, shapes and textures that you have found. Encourage your child to

Activity Time

- * Together with your child, choose a box to store your collection of materials.
- * Decide together how you are going to decorate the box to make it yours - a special place to keep your 'treasures'.
- * Every day items such as yogurt pots, egg boxes or cardboard tubes make a great start to your collection. You could decorate these too - they make excellent storage pots.
- * Once your box is finished, involve your child in collecting the items and washing any food containers before storing them in the box.
- * You can now begin to make collections of small objects such as shells or buttons, little figures such as dinosaurs—whatever your child's interests may be. These small items are also useful for counting and sorting as well as language development.

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This activity covers the following areas of the
Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Communication and Language Physical Development
Mathematics Understanding the World Expressive Arts and



Garretts Green Nursery School



Fun to Learn

March 2016

Key Points

Opportunities to develop hand and arm movements are very important to encourage children to make marks on paper.

Not all children enjoy using a pencil or crayons and need a different activity to develop their early writing skills.

Watch their mark making change from lines and squiggles to recognisable shapes and letters.



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Things to talk about

What does the flour feel like? What could be used to make marks with in the flour?

Decide together what shapes to draw.

Look around the house for any letters. Can you copy them? Are they in your names? What sound do they make? Look at your TV remote control, your phone, your cooker. What letters do you see?

Activity Time

For this activity you will need, some flour, a sieve, and a tray or worktop space. With your child, make a layer of flour on a tray or worktop by sieving a large tablespoon of flour onto it. You could add glitter or even coloured sand. You now have an exciting and unusual surface for making marks in.

Together, investigate the flour and the different shapes and patterns that you can make using your finger. Draw different shapes, letters from your child's name or numbers that they are familiar with, such as their age or their house or flat number. Draw pictures in the flour, too.

What else could your child use to make marks in the flour? Try the handle of a thing paintbrush, a twig or a comb.

Shaving foam makes a good alternative to flour and is great fun! Buy from Poundland!

Take a photograph if possible and bring it to school on Wednesday 2nd March at our Early Reading Family Workshop or email it to:

This activity covers the following areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Communication and Language
Physical Development	Literacy
Understanding the World	Mathematics
	Expressive Arts and Design



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Garretts Green Nursery School

April 2016



Fun to Learn

Key Points

When exploring the Outdoor Classroom at Nursery, the children enjoy blowing bubbles and using windmills.

Whilst doing this they are developing an awareness of the effect of the weather on the equipment they are playing with.

Use this activity to develop investigative skills as you search and collect items that blow in the wind.



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Things to talk about

What makes things move outside?

How can we make them move indoors?

How do they move? Fast or slow?

What moves best? Heavy or light objects?

Activity Time

Search cupboards and drawers together to start your collection of everyday items to hang on a coat hanger ready to turn into a mobile. Look for objects of different sizes and weights.

After investigating, help your child to choose which items they would like to hang on their mobile and together experiment to find the best place to hang them.

Use different lengths of wool or string to attach your objects to the hanger.

Place your mobile outside and wait for a windy day! (You may need to tie the hanger to a tree)

Either take a photograph of your hanger or bring it into school the week after the Easter holiday, week beginning Tuesday 12th April 2016

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This activity covers the following areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum
Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Communication and Language Physical Development
Mathematics Understanding the World
Expressive Arts and Design



Garretts Green Nursery School



Fun to Learn

May 2016

Key Points

At Nursery, children have the opportunity to explore practical mathematical activities in a variety of everyday situations.

By creating their own 'jigsaw' puzzles they are developing the ability to match shapes by Recognising similarities and developing their fine motor skills in a fun and familiar home environment.



**Remember
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Things to talk about

Why did they choose the picture?

How many pieces are they going to cut out?

Where will the pieces go?

What other things could they use to make a jigsaw with?

Activity Time

Gather together some used Birthday cards, favourite magazines or old catalogues and together choose a picture to cut out. You may need to glue your picture onto some stiff card (e.g. An empty cereal packet), before drawing lines on the back, ready to make your puzzle. You may decide to use a photograph of your child or a family photo.

Draw straight lines with a felt-tip pen. You may refer to make your lines more twisted if your child has good scissor skills.

Encourage your child to cut or snip along the lines you have drawn and then fit the pieces back together to recreate the picture. Decide how many pieces to create, start with 6 and increase the number as you repeat the activity and your child becomes more skilled at using a pair of scissors.

Note: It is not advised to leave your child unattended whilst cutting for safety reasons. (It is also very tempting for children to trim their own hair!)

Take a photograph or bring your puzzle to school by Friday May 20th 2016

This activity covers the following areas of the
Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum
Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Communication and Language Physical Development

Garretts Green Nursery School

June 2016



Fun to Learn

Key Points

Children enjoy exploring the outdoors and using 'unrestricted' space available to them.

This activity provides an ideal opportunity for them to develop their gross motor skills whilst engaging in a fun and exciting activity in a healthy outdoor environment. It also is a great activity for developing fine motor skills and early writing skills.



Remember to have

Things to talk about

Explore the outdoors together and decide where to carry out the activity.

Talk about the colour of the water. Experiment with making different colours.

Discuss what will happen to the painting if the sun comes out. Try a different width of brush, encourage your child to predict what will happen using a different sized brush.

Activity Time

With your child, part-fill a bucket with water, if you have some food colouring add a drop to the water and watch it change colour. Talk about how the food colouring reacts as it disperses through the water.

Find a large space, for example the side of a wall, patio area, paving slabs or even a wooden structure such as a shed or play house and encourage your child to make large 'painting' movements with their brush.

Start off low down and stretch up high, making large movements with the brush and the water. Use flat areas as a blank canvas to 'paint' large creations.

Take a photograph and bring it to school or send it to us at:

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This activity covers the following areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum
Physical Development Communication and Language
Literacy Understanding the World
Expressive Arts and Design



Garretts Green Nursery School

July 2016



Fun to Learn

Key Points

Children enjoy engaging in role play situations and using puppets to re-tell favourite stories or re-enact scenes from their favourite television programmes.

Puppets can also help children to convey their feelings when they don't have the appropriate language skills or confidence to talk about their anxieties or fears, even when in a comfortable environment.



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Things to talk about

Does the puppet have a name?
How would it feel if you had no name?

Which story could you act out with the puppet? What is your favourite story? Which character do you like most? Why?

How do you think the character feels in different situations
Encourage your child to use language other than 'happy' and 'sad'. Introduce other vocabulary such as confused or scared.

Activity Time

Allow your child to use the resources imaginatively and creatively. Don't be tempted to direct their play and remember that their work is their representation of the character they are creating and may bear very little resemblance to the original!

Use the puppet to retell favourite stories or rhymes, encouraging the correct sequence of events. Make up your own stories together.

Value every piece of work and give your child time and space to explore their creations independently and observe what purpose they are using them for.

Take a photograph and bring it to school or email it to:

enquiry@garretts.bham.sch.uk

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This activity covers all areas of the
Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum



Garretts Green Nursery School



Fun to Learn

Summer holiday

Key Points

Children need to know how things grow and where their food comes from and planting seeds is an ideal way of introducing them to this. Are your seeds going to grow into flowers, fruit, vegetables or herbs?

What will you need to plant the seeds? Make sure you have everything ready to look after them too—do you have a watering can or a plastic bottle so that the seeds can be watered? Watch and talk about the changes as the seedlings grow.



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Things to talk about

Look at the shape, size, colour of the seeds.

Talk about what the seeds may grow into and whether they will be flowers or vegetables.

Talk about the life-cycle of the plant you are growing - what will happen when you plant the seed?

How will the seeds be planted? Are they too tiny to plant individually and will need to be sprinkled or can you hold and

Activity Time

It is likely that you will need to start this activity before we break up for the holiday but seeds such as lettuce can be planted a bit later as the growing time is shorter. Allow your child to use the equipment needed to plant the seeds. You may need a tray as well as a plant pot. Allow your child to fill the pot or the tray with compost. Water well and then plant the seeds. Make sure they are covered with soil. You may want your child to sprinkle a little soil on top of the seeds.

Remind your child that they need to look after the seeds and must check that they have enough water in dry weather.

Watch the seeds as they grow.

Have a great summer holiday!

This activity covers all areas of the
Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

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