

# 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 both.



**Remember  
to have  
fun!**

### How does Fun to Learn work?

We have given you a small starter pack which includes an activity for you to complete.

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 six, one of which we will send out each half-term.

### 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 each half-term 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 done.

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

This is a drop-in session which helps to prepare your child for starting Nursery School the following week.

Thank you

# Garretts Green Nursery School



## Fun to Learn



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**Activity 1: Making a treasure box**

**Activity 2: Writing in flour or sand and glitter**

**Activity 3: Coat hanger mobile**

**Activity 4: Jigsaw puzzle**

**Activity 5: Painting with water**

**Activity 6: Using a puppet to tell a story**

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

# Garretts Green Nursery School



## 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

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

Talk about different shapes and textures that you have found.

Encourage your child to suggest how you could use the chosen objects to build and create.

### 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. These are useful for counting and sorting.

Bring your box to Nursery in September to share the fantastic work you have done together.

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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      Expressive Arts and Design



# Garretts Green Nursery School

## Fun to Learn

Autumn A



### 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, your phone, your cooker. What numbers 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 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.

You could swap the flour for sand or glitter or make up a mixture of all three.

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

[enquiry@garretts.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@garretts.bham.sch.uk)

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

Personal, Social and Emotional Development,  
Communication and Language      Physical Development  
Expressive Arts and Design      Mathematics.



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# Garretts Green Nursery School

Autumn B



## 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.



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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 weight.

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!

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



# Garretts Green Nursery School



## Fun to Learn *Spring A*

### 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 develop their fine motor skills in a fun and familiar home environment.



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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 straight lines on the back, ready to make your puzzle. You may decide to use a photograph of your child or a family photo.

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.

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

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Communication and Language

Expressive Arts and Design

Physical Development

Mathematics

# Garretts Green Nursery School

Spring B



## 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 in preparation for developing fine motor skills.



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### 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.

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 send it to us at:

[enquiry@garretts.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@garretts.bham.sch.uk)

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

Physical Development

Communication and Language

Understanding the World



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# Garretts Green Nursery School

## Fun to Learn Summer A



### 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

Explore the resources that you have and decide how you are going to use them. Discuss how you are going to attach the different resources - use glue sticks or coloured tape and the reason why. Talk about what the puppet might look like. Use pictures from magazines or books to prompt their imagination. Visit the Library to borrow a favourite book that features your puppet and makes the story 'come alive'.

### 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 email it to:

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

**6**



# Garretts Green Nursery School



## Fun to Learn Summer A

### Key Points

Children need to know 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 plant them easily?

Watch them grow. Talk about the parts of the plant.

### Activity Time

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.

Watch the seeds as they grow. Talk about the seedling, the colour of the first shoot, the leaves as they develop and then the young plant.

Encourage your child to think about what the plant will need to grow and link that to other living things.

You could make a label for the pot or decorate it.

Stories to link to this include, 'The Tiny Seed', 'Titch', 'Oliver's Vegetables', 'Growing Good', 'Jasper's Beanstalk' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk.'

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

# Garretts Green Nursery School



## Fun to Learn *Spring A*

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