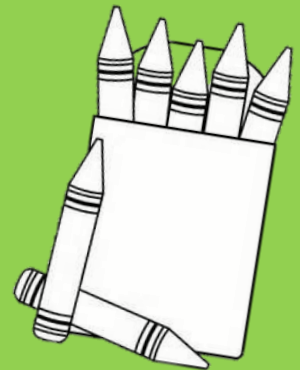




Noor ul Islam  
PRE-SCHOOL

# School Closure: Home Learning Pack



# Welcome Note

As Salaamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh,

We have tried to provide you with a rich and varied range of learning opportunities that you can do at home with your children. Please remember that play in early years is how children learn and make sense of the world. These are only guide lines and you can adapt the ideas, as you know your children best and can follow their interests better.

We would also recommend parents to eventually come up with a daily schedule so that children have some sense of structure and routine. It is essential that their day has a mix of activities and though they may be indoors they still have time for physical activities also.

Here is what your routine may look like:

Breakfast  
Activity  
Movement/physical activity  
Snack  
Activity  
Story time  
Movement/physical activity  
Lunch  
Project time/screen time  
Creative activity  
Free play/board games  
Dinner  
Qur'an time/prophets stories  
Bed time

With all activities we ask you to reflect on the health and safety aspects. We know you will want to keep your child safe and happy. Please consider any risks. Remember adult supervision is required at all times.

# Playdough

Play dough is a really quick, easy and satisfying thing to make. The actual making experience with the ingredients and how they react can support children's learning. It can be used in all kinds of learning activities. It needs to be stored in an airtight container or bag if you are going to re-use it

## Play Dough Ingredients

2 cups of plain flour,

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup salt

2 cups of warm water

1 cup of oil

Food colouring (optional)

**Method** • Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water. • Measure out 2 cups of plain flour and pour into the bowl. • Measure out  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of salt and 1 cup of oil and pour into the bowl. • Measure out 2 cups of warm water and pour into the bowl. • You can add food colouring if you wish. • Stir the mixture together. It will become sticky. Continue stirring until the mixture has all come together. • Once the mixture has come together, use your hands to knead the dough. • If your play dough is too sticky you can add in extra flour. • Knead the dough into a smooth lump.

## Playdough Activities

The play dough should be nice and soft for children to easily cut through and manipulate (if it sticks you could add a little flour).

Let them just play with the utensils and see what they can create. Encourage your child to pinch, squeeze, roll, and poke the play dough to strengthen their hand grip. Getting the child to use their fingers and hands supports their ability to hold pens and pencils for their writing development. Children can make all kinds of wonderful creations with play dough. They may want to make their own slithery snake, snowman, monsters or food for a picnic. Let their imagination run wild!



# Water play

Water play is a great way to introduce materials and help children develop understanding about the world around them. It is also a great opportunity for children to be exposed to new vocabulary and extend their language.

## Floating and Sinking

Fill a tray/bowl/tub with water and gather objects with your child from around your home. Discuss whether these objects may float or sink and why. Encourage them to think about size, shape and weight of the objects before they place them in the water. Once you have placed the objects in the water talk with your child if their predictions were correct. Children can learn about making predictions and experimenting.

## Washing Dishes

Children love to imitate the adults around them. Give children old pots, pans with some bubble bath or fairy liquid and let children help with the dishes. You may also find a bowl and selection of containers suitable for using in water pouring activities. These might include jugs, empty milk containers, plastic mugs, etc. Ensure the water is at a safe temperature. Let the children empty and fill with the water. Which container holds the most? How many cups of water go into the pan?

## Ice Experiment

Ice is great for children to observe the changes in materials and allows them to use their sensory skills. Put some water in different containers or an ice tray and leave it overnight; **you** may also like to add a toy inside for them to discover once melted e.g. a Lego piece, button or any other small toy. Try and experiment with how long it would take for the ice cube to melt or freeze, how can we make it melt faster? Is it now a solid or a liquid?



# Counting, Matching & Shapes

It is really important that young children have quality play experiences where they can sort, compare and match things. This all takes place before they do more formal maths and it will help to form a solid foundation.

## Counting activities

Counting activities can be done throughout the day. Children should be aware that anything can be counted including, steps, claps, jumps etc.

You can also number some cups/ containers and ask children to add the correct number of objects to each cup. Children can use buttons, shells, raisins, coins or any other small objects. Please remember that children will be on different levels with some recognising numbers 1-10 or more, while others may only know 1-3, and some may not be able to recognise any at this stage.



## Matching activities

Matching pairs of socks, gloves or mittens together uses great comparing skills. If you have a box of buttons at home, ask children to match the buttons of the same colour or shape etc. You can also play snap type activities. Turn all the cards over and then take it in turns to turn two over. If they match, you keep them. If not, turn them back and try to remember what was on the card for next time. To add numeracy to this activity you can use numbers on the cards instead. Dominoes are also a good game for developing numeracy and matching skills.



## 2D and 3D Shape Hunt

Shapes are all around us and by simply taking a walk around your rooms you will find many. What can you see? The first regular shape names they will learn are a square, a rectangle, a circle and a triangle. Those who are more confident can move on to 3D shapes such as, cube, cuboid, pyramid and cylinder.

You might choose one shape to spot at a time. Where are all the circles? Your child might want to record what they see in some way, drawing or tallying for example, or may simply like to point them out. You could also take photographs with your phone or camera. Discuss with your children how many they found.

# Imaginative play

Role playing and imaginative play go hand in hand with supporting literacy, mathematical skills as well as so many other key learning areas.

## Shopping role play

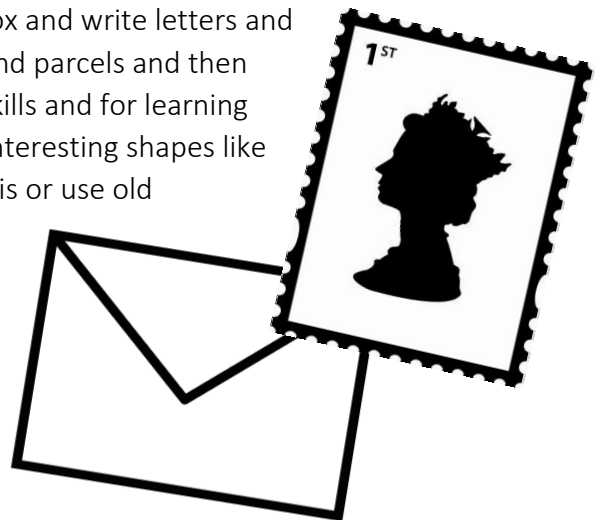
On a table, display cereal boxes, tins, washed plastic milk containers, etc. You may have some fruit and vegetables, real or pretend. Set the scene and layout your shop. Do you need to make labels? Do you need to have some scales to weigh things? You could compare heavy and light things.

## Toy Shop role play

How about a toy shop? You could use the toys you have in your own home. You could even design and draw your own. What are the prices? Can you make receipts? Your child might have their own ideas for a shop which you can discuss and make props together for.

## Post Office role play

Imagine it as a Post Office. You could have a post box and write letters and even make and design a stamp. Try wrapping pretend parcels and then delivering them. Wrapping is great for fine motor skills and for learning about 3D shapes. You might want to try wrapping interesting shapes like a teddy bear. You could use recycled paper to do this or use old newspaper.



# Understanding the world

## Treasure Hunt

You could go on a treasure hunt around your home, searching for metals. You may have a magnet or a fridge magnet to determine which metals found are magnetic. Not all metals will be. Perhaps you could use a bag or a box to store all the pieces you have found. You may decide to create your own treasure map with hidden treasure at the end.

This is also a good opportunity to introduce different materials and vocabulary e.g. wood, plastic, glass etc.

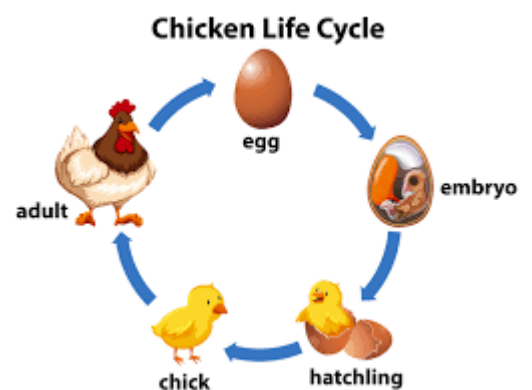
## Cooking

Cooking provides families with great memories. Preparing food together is a really lovely learning and social experience. Children will eagerly help cut up fruits and vegetables for their snack.

How about a fruit salad or a vegetable soup? Children can help wash, peel, blend, cut and slice with child friendly knife or peeler. It may encourage your child to eat more vegetables as they feel a sense of ownership over the process. This activity is creating scientific knowledge as you are learning about how and why things grow, the names, the textures, the colours and then how they taste.

## Technology

Children have inquisitive minds and it is essential for us to fuel and aid it. Try and research about a life cycle of an animal, a famous landmark, dinosaurs or any other topic of their choice. Use the internet, books or videos to find out about the topic and have a go at making models, posters to display your findings.



## Junk modelling

With left over yogurt pots, Cereal boxes, kitchen roll tubes, egg cartons, or any other recycling items children can use their imagination to build 3D models. Children can make robots, landmarks, transport or props for their favourite book.

# Literacy

Reading books and singing rhymes are really fun and important ways to support children's literacy and language development. Children should be encouraged to read a variety of books and even have a go at making up their own stories. Please try and read at least one story every day with your child.

## Story telling

Children love to hear familiar stories, if you do not have a copy at home you can print them off online or find videos of stories instead. Read the story together a few times. Children should be encouraged to join in with repeated phrases and asked to predict what may happen next. You may want to use different voices for the characters and even costumes. Children can make props and have a go at telling the story themselves.



Here is a list of classic stories that the children are familiar with:

- The very hungry caterpillar
- Brown bear
- Dear Zoo
- We're going on a bear hunt
- Goldilocks and the three bears
- Gingerbread man

## Name practice

It is important for children to recognise their name. The activity below is a quick and easy way for them to identify and order each letter. Start off by writing their name clearly at the top. Draw enough boxes for each of the letter in their name. Write each of the letters on separate papers big enough to put into the boxes you have drawn. Let them order them and when they are able to do so let them have a go in writing them in instead.

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# Useful Websites

With the shutdown of pre-school, many online resources have allowed parents to download or become a member for free. We have collected some of the useful websites for you and your child to benefit from at home. Please note some websites or activities may contain music and will need adult supervision:

[www.twinkl.co.uk/](http://www.twinkl.co.uk/) -

This site contains many printable worksheets. They are offering 1-month free access to parents. Code PARENTSTWINKLHELPS

[www.education.com/games/preschool/](http://www.education.com/games/preschool/) -

This site has interactive games for pre-school children.

[www.theimaginationtree.com/tag/sensory-play/](http://www.theimaginationtree.com/tag/sensory-play/) -

This site has great tips, sensory recipes and craft ideas.

[www.bookflix.digital.scholastic.com/home/](http://www.bookflix.digital.scholastic.com/home/) -

This site has stories you can watch and read along with.