



Dear Parents,

Here are some suggestions that you can do with your children during the half-term break.

Phonics: Letter mats: write down different letters on a paper mat and using magnetic letters get the children to match them to make pairs.

Word match: to extend this write down three letter words for example cat, pin, dig and get the children to find the matching magnetic letters to make the words. Encourage them to sound out the letters and ask them which is the first letter sound, middle and last and say them all together to make the word.

Word hunt: Show your children a word for example 'cat' and read them a story related to a cat. Ask them to find the word cat on every page you read.

Maths: Play cafe: Use playdough to make cookies and play 'cafes'. Let your children take your order and tell them you would like five cookies. They need to count the exact number of cookies to serve you.

Skittles: Play Skittles and work out each players' score or how many are left after each roll (empty water bottles are perfect for this activity)

Find the mouse: Use paper cups for this activity. Write numbers on them from 1-10 (or more to extend them). Invite the children to stack them in correct order from 1-10. You can also hide a small toy such as a mouse and swap the cups around and ask the children 'Where is the mouse hiding?'. The child has to identify the number under which cup they think the mouse is hiding. You can also line up the cups and take a few out and ask the children to find the missing cups.

Creative: Story cubes: Print out some story cubes and make the cubes with your children. Roll them and encourage them to make up their own story based on the pictures they roll. You'll be surprised how much you'll end up laughing by the end of it.

Mixing colours: Mixing colours can keep the children busy for a long time. Pour paint over shaving foam, spaghetti, ice and watch them become fascinated with how the colours change and also the different textures will keep them glued for a long time.

Aquarium: Use a big shoe box and create your own small world inside. Paint it different shades of blue, paint some fish or cut them out from magazines and stick some shells inside. Wrap it up with some cling film from the open end to make your own aquarium.

Hope you find these useful and enjoy working on them with your children! Happy half term!

