

Nursery Home Learning - Week beginning 20/4/20

Hi guys,

I am missing you all so much! Here are some ideas, activities and games to share at home this week. In nursery we do lots of independent learning, as well as adult directed learning. It's important children get to work on some of their own ideas because they will have loads. I also think it's important to remember children at this age and stage of development will have a shorter attention span than older children when working on adult directed learning. I would only expect children to stay on task for around 15-20 minutes at one time. Little and often is the key, also revisiting and adapting games and activities, some revisiting is good if children have challenged their skills and thinking. Have fun and enjoy learning together.

Here are some **long-term skills** to work on while we have more time at home:

Making a sandwich



You could also let children help spreading topping on toast another day. Let children help out with washing up and putting pots away - where it is safe for them to do so.

Enjoy your lunch!

- Talk about what you will need, you could make the list or let them have a go at drawing what you need or have a go at writing.
- Count out all the items you need. How many people you are making sandwiches for... etc.
- If it's for the family, you could make a menu first with all the options.
- Take all the orders then wash hands and let children help you prepare the sandwiches. Ensure children are supervised while spreading, adults should do any chopping.
- You could serve the sandwiches with name tags so everyone know whose is whose.

What about making beds in the morning, putting dirty clothes in the washing basket or sorting clothes into different categories? This is a great maths activity, matching and sorting, thinking about 'the same' and 'different'.

Topic Activities

This half term in nursery, we would have been talking about **journeys** - which we are not doing for real at the moment, but children have wonderful imaginations.

Use 'The Blue Balloon' as a starting point.

<https://youtu.be/dsqHgGeBkVk>

Where would the blue balloon take you? What adventures could you have?



Literacy

- Make up a story about where the balloon would take you, it doesn't have to be a blue one!



- Make a book about your stories, children can draw the pictures and adults could do the writing. Some children might want to do their own writing. Before you start, think about what will happen at the beginning, in the middle and at the end. It might take a few days doing a page at a time.
- Design a magic balloon, what powers will it have?



Maths

- Make a map of your journey in your balloon. Where did you find it? Where did it take you? What did you see on the way? Add some positional language to the story, 'We went **over** the trees, then **under** the bridge...'
- What different shapes can your magic balloon make? Can you draw them?

Physical

- Developing pencil hold making maps and designing balloons. Also using pegs and clothes to make different bits of the story. A sheet and a few pegs are amazing, they can be anything.
- Moving in different ways around your balloon journey. If you can do this outside, even better.

Most of all have fun, and enjoy the story and exploring it together.

Daily phonics activities

Remember little and often is better than a long session, have fun, and its okay to have more than one go. It's better to have a set of games and activities that you can add to rather than something brand new every day.

Phonics is much more than letter sounds and writing when you're 3 and 4 years old. We need to help children develop their listening skills and sound discrimination. Each week I will give some different ways to help with this.

It is great when children are interested in letter sounds. We use pure sounds to teach this, which are a little different from how we were taught or remember them, here is an example of the letter sounds: https://youtu.be/BqhXUW_v-1s

This week we will explore **general sound discrimination**:

1. Old songs new words.

Use nursery rhymes you know well - can you change the words to make your own song? This is really fun, trying to find new words that rhyme or fit into the song. You could write them down or perform them for family. If you're on Twitter you can share them with us there.

2. Which instrument?

These can be homemade instruments or objects that can make a sound. Use yogurt pots with different things in. Have two matching sounds. You could give each pair a funny name to distinguish which is which like 'rattling rice' etc. Take turns to play one from behind a





screen, box, cushion, then the other person has to guess which one you are playing.

3. Grandma's footsteps.

This is a bit like 'What time is it Mr Wolf'. Using the instruments you have made, give each different sound an action, e.g. The rice shaker is walking on tiptoes, the pasta is walking backward, decide together which sound is which movement. Whoever is 'Grandma' has the instruments and stand away from the others as far as possible then they play a sound. When children hear this, they have to move in the way the sound tells them e.g. rice = walking on tip toes, towards Grandma. Grandma stops the sound and children have to stop. Then another sound is played. The aim of the game is for someone to get to Grandma without her hearing them. Whoever gets there first is Grandma next.



4. Story sounds.

Use the instruments you have made to make sound effects to your favourite stories as you read them together. You could retell the story from last week 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'.

5. Five magic moments.

This is one of my favourite activities and can be done almost anywhere at any time. Take five minutes to stop and sit still or lay down if possible and ask children just to listen, feel, smell, taste and see. They don't say any of it until the five magic moments are over. At the end of five minutes, take time to tell each other what you heard, saw, felt, smelt and tasted. This is a great thing to do outside if you have an outside space. Do it at different times of the day see what is the same or different.

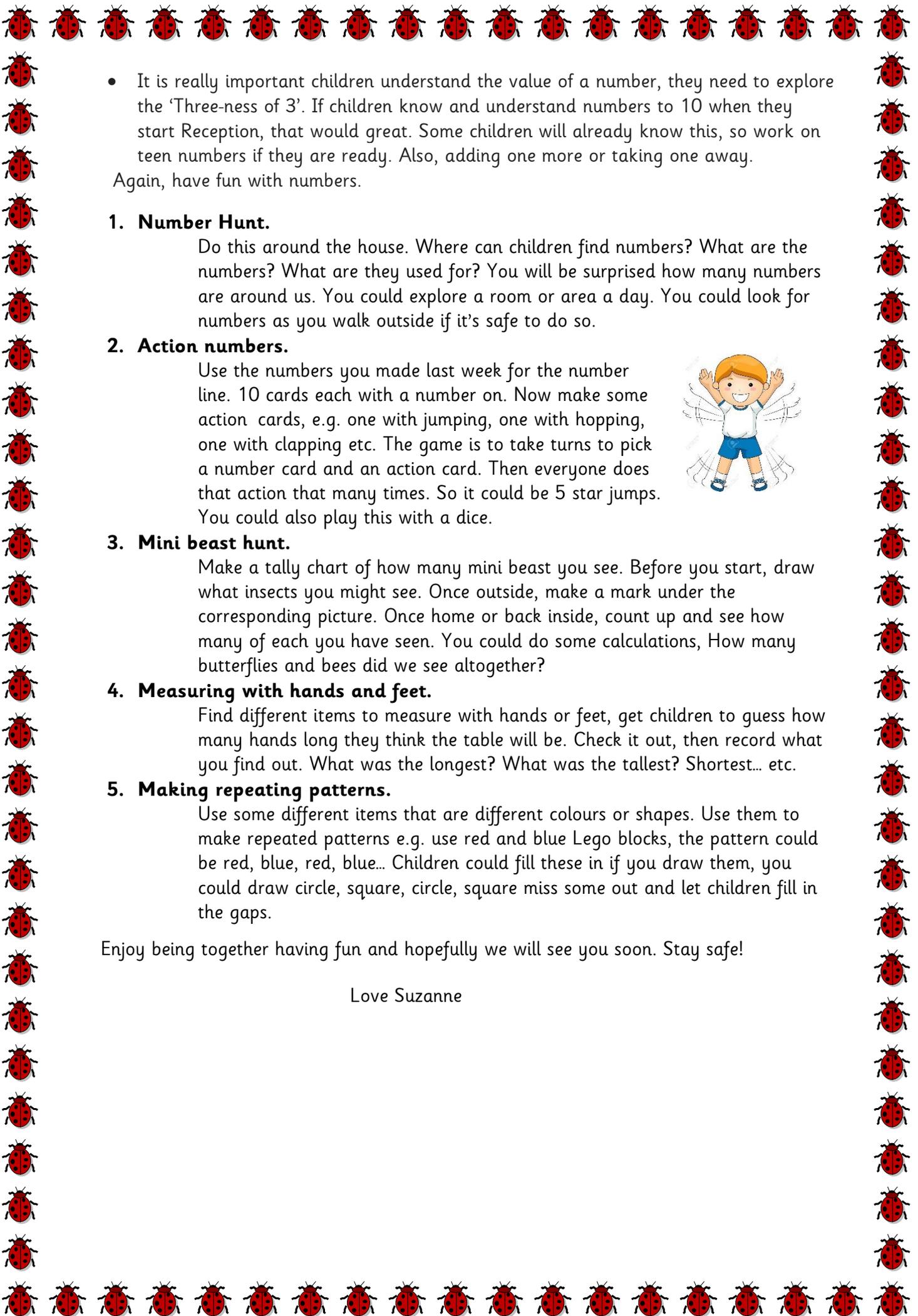
Remember to save all the things you make, children will love playing the games again. That is fine, it is reinforcing learning and tuning themselves into sounds around them which will help them hear sounds in words when they are ready to spell words for themselves.

Also, next week, Ruth Miskin will be doing 'Read Write Inc' sessions on YouTube again. Nursery children would be working on set 1 sounds.

Daily Maths activities

- Maths is everywhere so when children are playing independently you could add some mathematical ideas. Explore shapes, not only their names but some properties of shapes. For example, How many corners has that shape got? Do they fit together without any gaps?
- You can make number problems anywhere. We had 3 bowls of ice cream, Daddy took one away, how many have we got left?
- There are lots of skills involved in counting. Counting by rote, counting how many you have, matching an amount to a number. The children will be at different stages of their mathematical journey.





- It is really important children understand the value of a number, they need to explore the 'Three-ness of 3'. If children know and understand numbers to 10 when they start Reception, that would be great. Some children will already know this, so work on teen numbers if they are ready. Also, adding one more or taking one away. Again, have fun with numbers.

1. Number Hunt.

Do this around the house. Where can children find numbers? What are the numbers? What are they used for? You will be surprised how many numbers are around us. You could explore a room or area a day. You could look for numbers as you walk outside if it's safe to do so.

2. Action numbers.

Use the numbers you made last week for the number line. 10 cards each with a number on. Now make some action cards, e.g. one with jumping, one with hopping, one with clapping etc. The game is to take turns to pick a number card and an action card. Then everyone does that action that many times. So it could be 5 star jumps. You could also play this with a dice.



3. Mini beast hunt.

Make a tally chart of how many mini beast you see. Before you start, draw what insects you might see. Once outside, make a mark under the corresponding picture. Once home or back inside, count up and see how many of each you have seen. You could do some calculations, How many butterflies and bees did we see altogether?

4. Measuring with hands and feet.

Find different items to measure with hands or feet, get children to guess how many hands long they think the table will be. Check it out, then record what you find out. What was the longest? What was the tallest? Shortest... etc.

5. Making repeating patterns.

Use some different items that are different colours or shapes. Use them to make repeated patterns e.g. use red and blue Lego blocks, the pattern could be red, blue, red, blue... Children could fill these in if you draw them, you could draw circle, square, circle, square miss some out and let children fill in the gaps.

Enjoy being together having fun and hopefully we will see you soon. Stay safe!

Love Suzanne