

Hello everyone,

We hope you are all keeping safe and well at this time. We had hoped we would be back to school and normality by now but unfortunately we are off for a little while longer. We hope you are doing lots of fun activities at home and we can't wait to hear all about them when we are back in school. Here is a list of some extra fun things you can be doing and also to further the children's learning at home over the next three weeks or so.

- **Oral Language** - Our theme for April is transport so see what types of transport you see around the place on walk or on telly even. Discuss what might modes of transport we see in the sky, in the water and on land. We also love listening to the children's news. If they are on face time or the phone to a family member, encourage them to talk about what they did the day before.
- **Memory games** – the children are very familiar with these from school. You don't have to have special pictures so don't worry. Get your child to pick some of their favourite toys, line them up and remove one. Get them to guess which one is missing. Memory games can also be found online here:  
<https://www.happyclicks.net/memory-games/index.php>  
<https://www.memozor.com/memory-games/for-kids>
- **Counting/Maths** – If you're out in the garden or out on a walk encourage the children to count the objects around them. The children are great at maths in Early Start as you can see from all the problem solver of the week certificates they have been bringing home. Get the children to go on a shape hunt/ colour hunt in the garden to see what they can find. Take some photos to show us when we're back or post them on our schools Twitter page @Nanoscoil
- **Apps/Websites** -  
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/3-5-years/counting> is a fantastic website with lots of counting games. The children will be familiar with these games from school and I think some games are even tablet/phone friendly. There are many shape and colour videos available on YouTube. We have tablets in school and there are many free games in relation to matching, colours, memory, sorting and shape on the app store/play store.  
  
<https://www.storylineonline.net/> - Lots of online stories available here!  
  
<https://montessorimaispasque.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/pattern-duplo.pdf> - Can you make these lego patterns?  
  
<https://funlearningforkids.com/science-activities-preschoolers/>  
<https://handsonaswegrow.com/science-experiments-preschoolers/> - some fun science experiments! We did some of these in school already. Can you remember how to make ice cream in a bag and a rain cloud in a jar?

- **Motor Skills** – A lot of the children have expressed interest in writing and writing their names (we use a highlighter and get the children to trace over their names). The children also like writing their shopping lists/cards and notes. Give them a pencil and a notepad and let them off.

Now that the weather is nicer there is good drying out there!! Get the children to help you hanging the clothes (where possible). The use of clothes pegs is great to help strengthen their little finger muscles. If you look on the Junior Infant section of the website there are some more great ideas for Motor Skill development and also some nice links for nursery rhymes.



- A fun gross motor activity.

What your children will remember most about all this, is the time you took to spend with them and do activities such as jigsaws, reading stories, painting, colouring, art, helping with the cooking/baking and just sitting and playing or having a chat, which we are sure you're all doing anyway. All these things are just as important too! 😊

We hope to see you all very soon and keep up the good work!

Many Thanks,  
Ms. Kelly, Ms. Banscherus, Sandra and Phil 😊