

## Learning at Home

Just like at North Islington Nursery School, learning at home should be FUN and involve lots of PLAY.

This leaflet will hopefully provide you with some ideas of resources and activities that you might like to provide at home

## Babies and young toddlers

The very youngest children are still very much enjoying using their senses and exploring through touch, smell, taste, sounds and sight. At this age, providing interesting objects for your child to explore and investigate, will keep them busy!

### Treasure Baskets

Treasure baskets are filled with everyday items made from natural materials such as a paint brush, a metal spoon, rolling pins, fir cones, feathers, fruit such as an orange or a lemon, and objects that rattle such as a set of keys.

Babies' brains develop by sensory experiences. Making a treasure basket of items that stimulate all their senses and help them to learn about the physical world is a lovely thing to do and is free to make.



## After the treasure basket.....

### Heuristic Play

'Heuristic' means to discover or learn something for one's self.



Have you ever experienced a moment when your child is more interested in the box that a toy came in than the toy itself? If so, this is what is known as heuristic play.

Today, children are surrounded by loud and colourful toys that tend to be made out of plastic and while these might be good at stimulating some of the senses, they tend to lack the sensory and heuristic properties critical for supporting creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

Simply providing a selection of everyday objects for your toddler to explore, will keep them busy for ages!

Long kitchen roll tubes or gift wrap rolls are great to use with small objects to test if they fit through and can roll.



Simple rings to hook onto a mug tree provide opportunities to develop hand eye co-ordination skills and counting.

Bun tins or ice cube trays with small objects such as conkers provide opportunities to develop one to one correspondence and counting skills



Lots of interesting containers to fill with objects found around the home will keep little ones busy. Play alongside your child and say number names as you put objects into the containers. Also use language to talk about the shape, texture and other properties of objects.

## Something for those interested in transport!



## Just use tape!

Simply use a roll of masking tape to create a road and parking spaces for your children's favourite toy cars and vehicles.

## Lots of maths goes into this play

When your children are playing with this activity you can talk to them about direction and use positional language too, such as behind, next to, opposite etc.

Creating numbered car parking spaces reinforces numeral recognition and counting skills.



## Following on from the road.....

Perhaps you can create buildings and objects for your road using empty boxes and containers.



## There are loads of junk modelling benefits. Junk modelling encourages children to develop their imagination and design skills.

When providing your child with some boxes, plastic containers, bottles, tubes and tape or glue your child will have the freedom to make whatever they choose. This requires them to visualise their end product and then transform the 'junk' into a house, car, robot, alien etc. There is no right or wrong and the end product does not have to represent anything!

## Junk modelling develops problem solving skills

Your child will be selecting 'junk' according to their properties. Which bits stick best? Which bits will make good wheels? Children will be planning how to attach items with glue, tape, testing, wool etc.

## Junk modelling develops fine motor skills

Using scissors to cut and handling objects to attach and place correctly all encourage the development of hand eye co-ordination and fine motor skills. All skills that will be important for writing.



## Junk modelling teaches children about recycling

Junk modelling materials can come from waste in your own homes. Cereal boxes, egg boxes, bottle tops, fabric pieces, food nets, buttons, foil trays, plastic bottles etc. These materials can be used to teach children about different materials and their properties and how they can be used (upcycled) instead of throwing them away. If the junk modelling is used in your child's play – then even better!



We hope you enjoy trying some of these activities. We will be adding more later this week

Take care and happy playing!