

**St Canice Nursery**

 Nursery – June Home Learning Activities 3/4

 **June 2020**

During June our themes will be **‘Summer’ and ‘Moving On’.**

Weeks 3 and 4 - ‘Moving On’ we will focus on preparing for the move to Primary School. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control the children did not get to complete the transitioning programme we had planned for April, May and June, however you can still help at home, one of the most important things you can do is talk to your child about going to their new school.

As you will have seen from the letter sent out by Mr Loane this week, it is evident that a “Phased Return” of pupils will take place. September will almost certainly see us using both School and Home to educate your child and has been termed by the Department of Education as, “Blended Learning”. It is an exciting time for your child, and it is important to chat to them positively about this important milestone to help prepare them for returning to school.

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development:**

* Encourage your child to take responsibility for themselves, their belongings, and toys in their home environment. Tidying up after themselves, helping at home, putting items away and setting the table. Encourage lots of independence.
* Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings about moving to a new school.
* Talk to your child about going to P1, the canteen, taking lunches and the playground.
* Reinforce the golden rule’ we wait and be patient’ at home by encouraging your child to wait patiently for their turn while others are talking.

Language Development:

* Encourage your child to ask questions - this is an important skill and it is how they show an interest in their own learning. We know that it can be tiring at times, but it is a skill to be encouraged and, by engaging in conversation, we know we are supporting learning as the children are interested and ready to listen.
* Continue to try and read daily with your child, either story books from home, Book Trust NI or Libraries NI - Libraries NI have some great stories coming up on their YouTube channel. Join in every weekday at 2:30pm Gather around for some quiet time from 2.30pm (available until 3pm) <https://bit.ly/lnichildrensstories>
* Please note there are some lovely books available about Starting School
* Please note you can also find a small selection of rhymes by Libraries NI on You Tube by typing the following into the search bar. Libraries NI Children’s story time/ Libraries NI Rhythm and Rhyme
* Continue to encourage your child to do lots of mark-making- over the summer months draw pictures of friends from Nursery, their new Primary School, themselves in their new school uniform. Help your child to hold their pencil with a comfortable grip. We would love to see any drawings or paintings the children create.

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* Talk to your child about your First Day at school – remember it is vitally important to give a positive reflection, as it will help them to think positively about going to school and they will settle well.

**Focus Point - Week 3/4 - Developing Pre-reading Skills:**

In Nursery, we spent a lot of time reading with the children sometimes on a one to one basis and at other times in a group. Our children this year loved story time and showed great development of early listening skills.

Simply put, pre-reading skills are the skills your child needs in their arsenal before they learn to read. These are things that will ease the stress and difficulty of learning to read at a later stage. Helping develop pre-reading skills is one of the best things a parent can do to prepare their child for reading. Hence why we love our Big Bedtime Read and encourage your participation in the programme. So basically, put if you can do anything over the summer months, I would encourage you to continue to read, read, read with your child.

**Helping your child to develop these skills is easier than you might think. You are probably already doing it most of the time.**

SOME OF THE PRE-READING SKILLS EVERY CHILD NEEDS:

There are a number of primary pre-reading skills children develop before and during preschool that if learned appropriately, aid dramatically in easing their learning to read.

**PRE-READING SKILL 1: PRINT MOTIVATION**

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Print motivation means being excited about and interested in reading books. Parents should read in front of their children.

SO HOW CAN YOU ENCOURAGE PRINT MOTIVATION

Make print visible to your child. Even if it is a grocery list, recipe, or E-mail. Show that you also enjoy reading. Read with your child every day. Read with a natural, but cheerful voice. Allow your child to choose his/her own books from the library or from your selection at home. Remember this also includes the section available from Libraries NI and Book Trust NI online. Help your child find books that are of an interesting topic to her/him. You may even end up reading the same books several times.

**PRE-READING SKILL 2: NARRATIVE SKILLS**

Having narrative skills means being able to describe things and retell story events, although for a young child this may simply be repeating major nouns found in the pictures or using simple describing words.

HOW TO ENCOURAGE NARRATIVE SKILLS

Engage your child in pretend play. Make up stories to tell your child. (From experience, my own children enjoyed this or even better tell them a story about yourself when you were young)

Invite your child to tell you a story (even if it is one from a familiar book or fairy tale).

Ask open-ended questions while reading books. Read repetitive books. (The predictability helps younger children.)

**PRE-READING SKILL 3: PRINT AWARENESS**

Print awareness is noticing print and understanding it has a function, that each word on a page represents a spoken word.

Print awareness also includes knowing how to handle a book, which side is the cover, how to hold the book, and how to turn pages one by one and which way to turn the pages.

HOW TO ENCOURAGE PRINT AWARENESS SKILLS

Allow children to handle books., help your child to recognize which way to hold a book and which way to turn pages. Point to words as they are read. Point out familiar words, like your child’s name or signs in public places, so that your child becomes aware of print.

**PRE-READING SKILL 4: VOCABULARY**

In this sense, vocabulary simply means knowing the names of things and connecting them to objects, feelings or ideas. Sometimes this is referred to a child’s oral language skills.

HOW TO BUILD YOUR PRESCHOOLER’S VOCABULARY

Read non-fiction books, full of pictures. Read picture books, too.

Use an expansive vocabulary when you speak to your child. If you use a “big word”, explain what it means. Explain new or unfamiliar words while reading. Invite your child to describe toys or objects. Help him/her find the right words to explain something.

Another great pre-reading activity is to try is finding the letters of your child’s name in other words, logos, and books. Children love finding their letters out and about, and it helps them realize that letters can actually mean something, too! But remember your child does not need to know letter sounds or names as their Primary One Teacher will teach them this. Many of our children were already making attempts to write their own name and this is great, it is what we call explorative mark making, but again remember they do not have to be able to form the letters correctly, as their teacher will teach them correct letter formation in Primary One. Nonetheless it is important to continue to encourage explorative writing.

Early Mathematical Experiences:

**Counting and Number recognition –**

The following are some ideas on how to continue to develop counting skills over the summer months. Some children will be working within 5, some within 10 – you can adapt these based on your child’s readiness.

* Sing and say counting rhymes together – Five Little Ducks, One Two Three Four Five, Once I caught a fish alive, Five Little Monkeys, Five Little Speckled Frogs, This Old Man, Ten Green Bottles, Ten in the Bed, Five sizzling sausages.

[This Photo](https://englishiscoolsite.wordpress.com/2015/12/18/12345-once-i-caught-a-fish-alive/) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/)

 Search counting rhymes online for links to them most are available on

 You Tube

* Play counting games – www.topmarks.co.uk have some great games for 2-5 year olds and they are tablet and phone friendly!
* Watch Numberblocks on Cbeebies /
* Count together – you can do actions like clapping, touching your knees, nose
* Count a group of objects by touching them as you count – use sweets – count 5 for you and 5 for me.

In fact, the best way for children to learn to count is with movable objects, with experimentation and fun! You can use stones, beans, blocks, shells, pasta, sticks, cars, or in fact any other object you can find around your house indoors or out to encourage them to count?

As you count, try to model to your child how you touch the object and then say the number. This skill is called ‘one to one correspondence’ or ‘touch counting’. This is an important milestone to achieve, in terms of mathematical progress and development.

* Create a number hunt game at home inside or outside (i.e.) Find 1 box

find 2 round objects, find 3 small objects, find 4 red objects, find 5 shiny objects.

* Let your child set the table, setting out the right amount of plates for everyone /cutlery / cups or glasses.
* Counting trees or cars etc as you travel along in the car. The list really is endless.

**Please be mindful that it is not necessary for children at this age to be able to read or write numbers, they do, however, need lots of counting experience to be able to prepare them for Numeracy work in Primary 1.**

**Shape –**

* Continue to work on shape recognition throughout the summer months: draw them, paint them, find them in fact you can apply the same strategies for the number hunt above by replacing the game with shapes.
* Continue to work on **positional language** games finding items that are in, under, behind, in front, below, over, beside etc Use the games from previous weeks home learning to revise this.
* As you work, bake, cook, play alongside, and talk to your child use **mathematical language** frequently so they begin to understand it in context and use it themselves. For example - Heavy/light. Long/short. Big/small, thin/wide

**Sorting and Matching –**

**Create opportunities for your child to find matching items and sort items into groups of the same.**

Physical Development and Movement:

* Continue to encourage your child to get lots of practice dressing and undressing themselves - with taking on/off – shoes, - putting on correct feet, jumpers, coats – zipping and buttoning – good preparation in making them independent for school.
* Continue with lots of **cutting practice to develop scissor skills** – First ensure correct grip and placement of fingers then try snipping, fringing, cutting straight and zigzag lines, cutting around shapes, cutting pictures from magazines. – remember this will all be very dependent on your child’s stage of development.
* Get lots of exercise –**Joe Wicks Kids Workout** or **Cosmic Kids Yoga** on the You tube channel. Walks and strolls in the local area.

The Arts:

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* Encourage your child to recite and sing summer nursery rhymes/songs:
	+ **You Are My Sunshine**
	+ **The Big Ship Sails on the alley alley oh**
	+ **The Pirate Song – counting song**
	+ **Five Little Monkeys Swinging in a Tree**
	+ **Row Row your boat**
	+ **Down in the Deep Blue Sea**
	+ **A hole at the bottom of the sea**
	+ **Baby Shark!**

 These songs can all be found on You tube if you are unsure of the tune.

* Continue to encourage your child to become aware of colours in the world around them and reinforce the colours we have learned( red, orange, black, brown, gold, silver, white, blue, pink, green, yellow, purple, grey) why not try colour mixing. This allows your child to explore changes – Help them find out what new colours they can make.
* Engage in imaginative play with your child – set up a pretend classroom, take turns at being the teacher, reading books, (why not have a dress up day with their new uniform on and play) Given our current climate, this is also a valuable opportunity to incorporate some level of understanding of social distancing and good hand hygiene into your child’s play. Setting dolls and teddy’s up at different play activities, pretend play having snack but washing dolly’s hands before etc. Children truly do learn best through play.
* Encourage your child to draw and mark make as much as possible.

**Art ideas:**

* + **Father’s Day is on Sunday 21st June** – why not try to make something for a special daddy, granddad, uncle.



* + Encourage your child to decorate their name:

Print or draw out your child’s name allow them to decorate or paint it.

* + Encourage your child to paint or draw a picture of themselves in their new uniform
	+ Paint or draw a picture of their new school.
	+ Ask your child to draw a picture of them playing with new friends at their new school.

World Around Us

* Continue to chat to you child about how we stay safe in the summer – in the sun and near water
* Play opposites game: At this time of year in Nursery we support the children in understanding opposites - Summer is Hot, Winter is Cold. You can play a simple game like this by using opposites and getting your child to respond i.e. Big- Small, An elephant is big but as a mouse is……
* Above-Below, Clouds are above us, grass is …… In-Out, Full-Empty, Boy-Girl, Hard-soft, Wet-Dry etc.
* Usually our school would have organised induction visits for children to meet their new teacher and spend time in the classroom, but as that could not happen, instead you could regularly walk past the school with your child and talk about how exciting it will be as they will be able to make lots of new friends.
* Talk to your child about the different types of work they will do in Primary School.
* Chat to your child about their friends from school and their memories from Nursery.
* Continue to teach your child the importance of good hand hygiene, make washing their hands a regular fun activity.

I will be uploading advice sheets over the next week from our **Getting Ready to Learn programme** on preparing and getting your child ready for school. There are also some great activities and ideas on the Getting Ready to Learn webpage under the Parent’s portal which you may find useful. Click on the **Parents** link to access.

www.gettingreadytolearn.co.uk/parents

On behalf of myself and the Nursery Team, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents for your support and co-operation throughout the year. Thank you also for your great participation in the Education Works and Big Bedtime Read programme. Sadly, our year did not end up as we had originally planned, but we are still very glad we got the opportunity to meet and teach your children. You should be very proud of them.

Mrs Delargy

Please continue to watch for notifications on our school website www.stcanicespsdungiven.com and on our Parents Association Facebook page.