**Hello** **everyone** – I hope you are all keeping well and safe! I know you are missing your friends at Nursery and we are really missing all the boys and girls and look forward to meeting again soon! ☺

Analia had her 4th birthday this week- I am sure you had lots of fun; Max will have a super day next Tuesday when he will be 4 as well. Elliot, I just loved your dinosaur that was up on the school website- you worked really hard –well done! Mary- Kate was also smiling beautifully as she did her work too! I love to see your pictures so please send them in! In the meantime- remember to wash your hands, cover your coughs and sneezes, be kind and help at home. Get lots of exercise, play, say/sing Nursery rhymes and read a story every night. Practice counting, writing your name/letters, colouring in and cutting with scissors every day.

We in Nursery are not able to use Google Classroom unlike the older pupils in our school. I am hoping that we have an alternative in place very soon but for now we will continue to use school website to put up ideas/activities weekly. As it will only be a few months until your child is in Year 1- you can help your child prepare during this time at home. Here are some ideas and activities from our Getting Ready to Learn Programme for you to try this week…

Do what you can, when you can - you don’t have to do them all!

Take this opportunity to promote a love of learning - a “Growth Mind-set” will help develop your child’s abilities and talents -through determination and hard work he/she will become motivated and engaged in their play and learning. Let your child use these phrases-

**“I can do it myself.” “I can try my best.” “I can think of ideas.”**

**“I can learn things.” “I like a challenge.” “Mistakes help me learn.”**

**Happy Healthy Kids**

* Family Games - all can join in! try Stuck in the Mud, Skipping- maybe mummy or daddy can you sing some skipping rhymes, Hula Hoops- Count how long you can hula and have a small prize for the winner, Races/Tag
* Hide and Seek – family fun for everyone! Hide yourself or objects indoors and outdoors …… Take turns to count to 5/10/ 15/20 and hide!
* Family Bake Off –use your own recipe or search online for recipes for children. Baking helps your child learn lots of basic skills and allows creativity.

REMEMBER SAFETY FIRST – DO NOT ALLOW CHILDREN TO TOUCH HOT OVEN /HOBS!

Doreen from Jo Jingles will be live streaming regularly @jojinglesL’Derry

**Education Works**

* Treasure Hunt- For all our children who love pirates and “Swashbuckle”. Draw a map/clues on paper and hide the clues around the house for child to follow to find the prize/treat.
* Gloop – make your own! You Need Cornflour/ food colouring. Just add 2 parts cornflour and 1-part water, add the food colouring. Children can explore the gloop and develop language and scientific concepts - how does it feel and move? Is it a solid or a liquid?
* What If…? – Get your child to think creatively by playing the WHAT IF? game …... WHAT IF –

Our house was made of cheese? You could fly? You are an Inuit? Cats are as big as elephants? A dinosaur came for a sleepover at our house?

**Ages and Stages**

* Mime Time – Act out activities and let them guess what you are doing:

E.g. drinking milk, lifting something heavy, swimming, walking through water, putting on clothes etc... get your child to have a turn as well! You could also look for pictures and ask child to use He/she/ I and correct ending i.e. climb**ing**

* Develop independence – a crucial skill and attitude to develop in your child. Allow him/her to set the table, clean room, tidy up, pick out clothes and get dressed, help prepare breakfast/lunch, help get bath ready.
* Sensory Box –use an old shoebox (with a lid). Cut a hole in the lid or cover top with a cloth and get them to feel and guess what’s inside! Include sensory items like a spikey brush, slippery soap, feathers, oranges and get them to describe what it feels like- a great opportunity to extend your child s descriptive language.

**Big Bedtime Read**

**Please continue to read and sing nursery rhymes every day to your children. REMEMBER-Spending at least 10 mins a day reading together helps your child’s social and emotional skills and strengthens their bond with you!**

* Making Faces -When reading today, have fun making animal noises or sound effects to bring your story to life and make each other laugh.
* Simon Says – copy the action or movements of animals /characters from your storybooks.
* Home Theatre –set up a mini theatre at home and encourage all the family to recreate your favourite story. Children will love to dress up as the characters.

There are animated versions of fairytales available on You Tube.

YOU CAN ACCESS SOME BOOKS ONLINE:

<https://magicblox.com>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk>

[www.pickatale.co.uk](http://www.pickatale.co.uk)

[www.librariesni.org.uk](http://www.librariesni.org.uk)