



## Thoughtful Thursday! 9/7/20

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Nursery team hope that you and your children are safe and well. Here are some ideas and suggestions for a great day with your child. Choose your favourite 3 or do more and if you can, take some photos to share.

Over the week we will be reviewing stories your child has learnt throughout the year. See what they can remember about any of the stories before reading/watching them and completing activities.

### Story of the Day!

- Owl Babies. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPQRiSTYFH0>)

### Cotton bud painting! (suggested time 10-15 minutes)

- Provide your child with some cotton buds to use.
- You dab the cotton bud into the paint and then dab onto the paper.
- Make sure your child is painting using dots rather than dragging the cotton bud across the paper.
- You could provide a template drawn for them to paint around such as a trunk of a tree or a flower stem.
- What colours can you add to your picture? What did you paint a picture of?



### Wake and Shake! (Suggested time 10 minutes max)



- Listen to some calming music such as this music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kA8cOG2cRzE>
- Get you child to move about to the calm music like an owl.
- They could flap and bounce like an owl from the story.
- Flap their arms as wings and pretend to fly.
- They could also just dance about calmly to the music!
- This music may also be nice to listen to when playing or eating breakfast.

### Nest Hunt (Suggested time 15 minutes)

- In the story, 'Owl Babies' the owls live in a nest in a tree.
- During your daily walk, have a look in any trees you may see for any birds nests. You may need to look up high in the trees.
- What type of bird might live in the nest? Why do birds build their nests high in the tree? What do birds keep in their nest?
- Search for and collect some sticks, pinecones, twigs, stones, leaves and maybe some feathers.
- When you return home, try making your own nest using the items you collected on your walk. Talk about the different things you used to make your nest.
- Keep the resources you collected for the maths activity below.





## Maths/Literacy (Suggested time 15 minutes)



- Use the resources you collected from your walk and the nest activity above or collect some on a walk.
  - This could be leaves, sticks, pinecones, twigs, stones, leaves and maybe some feathers.
  - Use some empty baskets or bowls and sort the objects into matching groups.
  - Encourage your child to put all of the same objects into the same basket such as all leaves together, all stones together.
  - Ask your child to identify all the objects found. Also talk about what they look and feel like such as a brown, crunchy leaf. Use describing words to talk about the objects.
- Count how many of each object has been sorted into each group.

## Snack/Lunch (15 minutes)

- Let's make some owl snacks
- You will need: round rice cakes, a banana, peanut butter, blueberries, apple and some Cheerios.
- Talk through each step with your child.
- Support your child to spread peanut butter over the rice cake.
- Cut the bananas into slices and arrange them as eyes. Place some blueberries on top of the banana to complete the eyes.
- Cut some apple into thin wedge slices for the wings and arrange on either side. Also cut some very small triangles out of apple and arrange as a beak and feet.
- Finally use some Cheerios to fill in the space between the apples as feathers.
- Eat and enjoy!
- Which owl from the story did you make? Can you talk about the different parts of the owl?



## Playtime

- Cook some pasta such as spaghetti and mix it with some soil or sand in a small tray.
- Provide your child with some tweezers or tongs.
- Let them search through the soil for the pasta 'worms'.
- Provide a small bowl for them to put the worm into.
- What animals like to eat worms? Can we eat worms?
- Where do worms like to live? Where might you find them?



## Topic Activity! (15 minutes)

- Once you have listened to the story of 'Owl Babies' let's make a picture of an owl from the story.
- You could use craft materials such as white cotton wool, feathers, strips of paper or a sponge and white or brown paint. If using white paint, it may be better to paint onto a coloured or black piece of paper if possible.
- If using paint, use a round shaped sponge to dap onto the paper to get a feather like effect.
- Add some details such as eyes and a beak using circle and triangle small shapes of paper.
- Which owl did you make? What colour did you make your owl? What did you use to make your owl?
- Encourage your child to describe the features of their owl.
- Some additional information and activities about owls you may want to look at can be found at:
- <https://www.barnowltrust.org.uk/owl-facts-for-kids/>



## Storytime

- Ask your child to pick out their favourite story.
- Read the story to them.
- Look at the different characters throughout the story.
- Talk about what sounds they might make. Eg. a bird- tweet, a person- talking
- Once you have read the story, talk about the different characters they saw; what they look like and what sounds they might make.
- If they see a character they are unsure about, get them to try making up their own sound of what they think it may sound like.

### Apps you Might Like to Explore with Your Child



CBeebies Storytime is filled with free interactive story books and bedtime stories for young children and is a great way to enjoy reading with your little one. The library is always growing, with amazing stories featuring all the CBeebies' favourites.

CBeebies Playtime Island contains a wide range of fun and educational games to help children understand the world around them and support the development of core skills. Children can play along with all of CBeebies' most popular characters.





Lingumi provides a course focused on spoken and communicative English. The app provides sets of learning games, speech recognition games and video-based games to help the child grow their grammar and get them speaking their first words.

Kaligo is a digital handwriting exercise book designed to teach children how to write using a stylus and tablet, built on an AI machine learning platform. A self-paced approach enables children to progress at their own speed according to their own ability, whilst AI Machine learning provides real-time corrective feedback.

Kaligo



Fonetti is a Listening Bookshop™ that provides young children with a patient, comforting listening ear to help in the learning-to-read journey, but also with the added benefit of tracking progress, identifying reading challenges, and highlighting to their adult carers where the most support is needed.

### [Phonics websites that you can access](#)

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/#https://www.phonicsbloom.com/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>