

Playful ideas from Homerton staff



You will need: some easy to find resources and a sense of fun 😊



Tamsin's ice fossils



You will need:

- Some plastic pots, with lids if possible
- Some small random plastic items which are ok to put in water and freeze
- A big tray / bowl and a spoon
- A freezer



1. Place items into the pots. Nearly fill the pots with cold water. Add food colouring if you like. Put lids on pots and put into the freezer.
2. When the pots are frozen, run them under the tap to loosen the ice blocks
3. Play with your ice blocks with the "fossils" inside. What do they feel like? Can you break them apart? What happens if you hold them or put them in the sun?

Tamsin's toy spa



You will need:

- A bowl / tray to contain water
- Some hand soap
- Some brushes / sponges / jug for pouring
- Some plastic toys that can get wet



Tamsin's lentil play



You will need:

- A large / deep baking tray or similar
- Some dried food like lentils, rice or beans – or a combination
- Some smaller containers, a jug, spoons and a funnel if you have one



Some things you can do with your lentils:

- Pour them
- Spoon them – how many spoonfuls will it take to fill your pots?
- Compare capacity – which pot holds more lentils?
- Feel them sliding over your hands
- Listen to the noise you make when you pour them
- Draw shapes or letters in them
- Make a pretend meal



Tamsin's outdoor listening



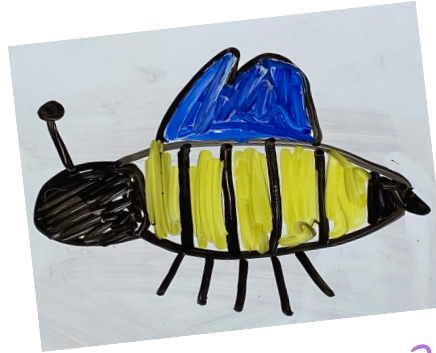
What will you hear?



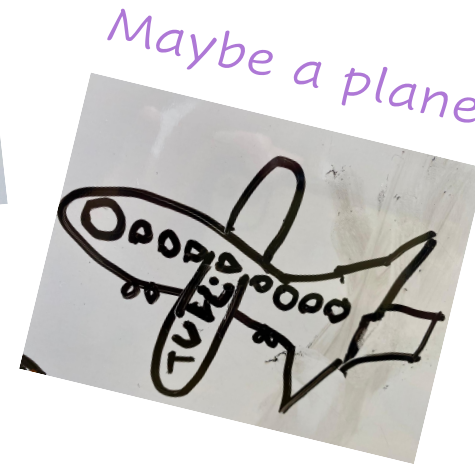
Maybe a car?



Maybe a bird?



Maybe a bee?



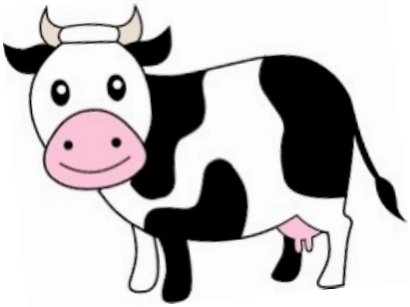
Maybe a plane?



- Go outside and stay quiet for a minute or two.
- What can you hear? Which sounds are noisy? Which are quiet?
- Can you see everything you can hear or are some sounds far away?
- Can you photograph or draw the things you can hear?



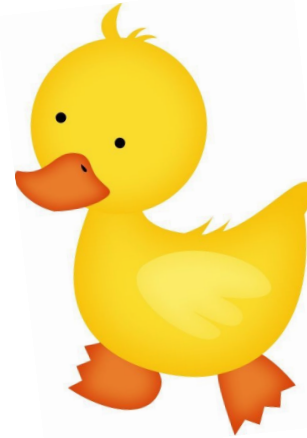
Tamsin's animal noises



Moouo!



Oooh, oooh, oooh



Quack!



Some song ideas

- ♪ Old MacDonald
- ♪ I went to the Animal Fair
- ♪ 3 little monkeys jumping on the bed
- ♪ 5 little ducks went swimming one day
- ♪ Daddy's taking us to the zoo tomorrow
- ♪ 5 little speckled frogs



Ribbit!

- Take it in turns with someone else to make some animal sounds
- Which animal sounds can you think of?
- Can the other person guess which animal you are being?
- What songs do you know with animals in them?

Tamsin's playdough maths



You will need:

- Playdough – see instructions for making some in our **Learning Together Through Play** pdf if you don't have any
- Different sized containers
- Rolling pin and shape cutters if you have them

Make different length worms. Which worm is the longest? Which is the shortest? Which of these is longer??



Make different sized balls. Which is the biggest / smallest? Can you put them in size order? Can you count them? Can you make 5?

Fill up your containers. Which one holds the most? Which one holds the least?

Make some shapes using your worms or using cutters. How many sides have they got? How many corners?

Tamsin's fruit sorting



You will need:

- Different fruits, preferably some of the same colour
- A chopping board
- A knife



Sort the fruits into colours or size or shape. Can you think of any other way to sort them?

Peel / cut the fruit – is it the same colour inside? What can you see inside the fruit?

What does it taste like?



Tamsin's 5 macaroons in a baker's shop



5 macaroons in a baker's shop
Round and sweet with sugar on the top
Along came ... with a penny one day
Bought a macaroon and took it away!



This can be adapted for anything you want to put in the baker's shop – or maybe it can be a different kind of shop! Toys & family members can join in the buying too! Good for counting, money, using fingers to represent numbers, subtraction, sharing etc.! ... and fun too!

Along came piggy with
a penny one day....
Bought a macaroon
and took it away!

How many left?
Can you show 3
on your
fingers?



Tamsin's water painting



Have fun painting pictures and mark making with water!

You will need:

Any old paint brushes / sponges and a container for water



You can also make footprints & jump in puddles!

Angie's memory game



You will need:

A selection of familiar objects and a tea towel or a cloth

*This game is also fun if you ask your child to take the lead and *you* have to guess which object is missing!*



1. Place objects on a table or floor and look at them carefully with your child, saying the names of each one
2. Cover with a cloth. Ask your child to close their eyes and remove an item from underneath the cloth
3. Ask your child to open their eyes again and uncover the objects. Can your child spot which one is missing?
4. You can make this game harder or easier by changing the number of objects. Can your child still work out which one is missing if you muddle the objects up as well as removing one?

Angie's pasta threading



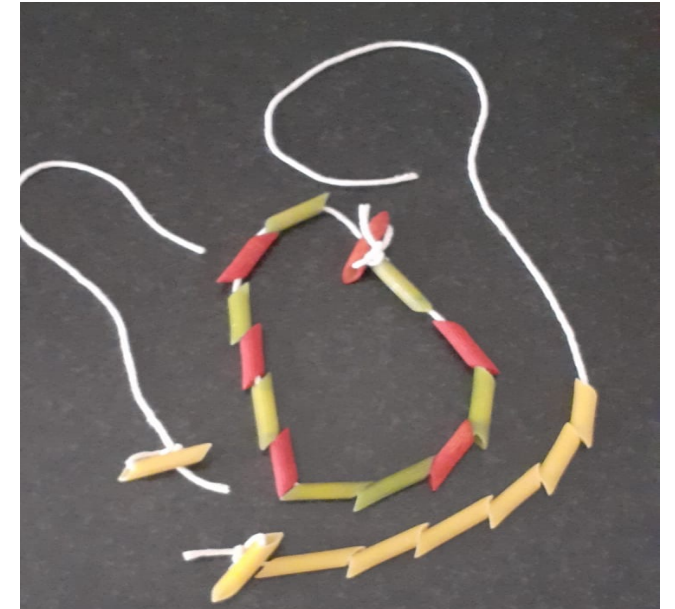
You will need:

Pasta (tube shape)

String / shoe lace / ribbon

Scissors

Food colouring / paint (optional)



1. Using the vocabulary "long" & "short, let your child decide how long they want their string to be.
2. Take one piece of pasta and tie it onto the end of the string before you start to thread so the others don't slide off.
3. Your child can then start to thread the pasta onto the string. You could count the pieces of pasta on the string / guess how many will fit on. How many more?
4. If you have coloured some of your pasta can you make a pattern? Which colour would come next? How many have you threaded of each colour? Which one have you got more of?
5. What can you make out of your string of pasta? A bracelet? A snake? What else? Can you think of anything else you can thread?

Angie's Playdough



Ingredients

2 cups plain flour
¾ cup of cooking salt
2 cups cold water
2 tablespoons cream of tartar
2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
Food colouring as required



Instructions

- Put all ingredients in a saucepan
- Cook on a low to medium heat on the hob
- Stir all the time until smooth
- When it suddenly turns into dough, remove from heat and turn out onto a lightly floured board.
- Allow to cool and then knead.
- Can store in an airtight container or a plastic bag in the fridge.
- Should last for days.

Michelle's colour sorting



You will need:

- Some matching coloured items (we've used dinosaurs here – Lego pieces might be fun then you could also build towers!)
- Some coloured paper / plates / scarves in the same colours as your objects



Sorting colours and comparing quantities:

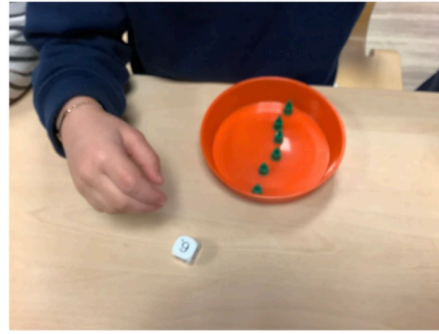
- Put the coloured objects in a bag or a box. Take it in turns to pull an object out of the bag or box and match it to the coloured card / plate etc. You could use some dice to determine the number of items to pick out of the bag each turn.
- This activity invites conversation about the quantities of objects on each piece of paper – can you count them & write the number? “I wonder ... which colour has the most? / how many are on the red piece of paper / are there any that have the same number / how many altogether?”

Michelle's maths with animals



You will need:

- 2 or 3 animals and a bowl for each of them
- A number of pegs or counters
- A die (or two dice if you want to count higher than 6)
Dice with spots are handy while still learning to recognise numbers :-)



1. Give each animal a bowl and take it in turns to roll the die / dice for each animal. Then count out that quantity of pegs or counters to put into the animal's bowl.
2. Which animal has the most or the least? How many more does bunny need to have as many as puppy?
3. Use some simple mathematical language as you play – number names, more, fewer, add, take away, altogether, the same ...

Fran's picture collage



Materials:

- Paper / card. Maybe use a cereal box
- Glue, Sellotape, scissors
- Natural materials found on a walk or in the garden



1. Collect some natural materials from your garden or while on a walk. Remember to check if it is ok to pick anything first! Dandelions & daisies probably good but probably not flowers from other people's gardens!
2. Find some paper or card to present your things on. Using a cut up cereal box might make a nice frame.
3. Using your glue or sellotape stick your things onto your card / paper. Have fun making a picture out of the things you collect.

Fran's stick families



You will need:

- To hunt for the right number of sticks for your family
- Some paper or stickers to label them
- Some ribbon or string to tie them up into a family

See how all the sticks are different just like members of your family?



- How many sticks do you need to have one for every person in your family?
- Can you find shorter sticks for the children and longer ones for the adults?
- You could label the sticks with each person's name or picture and tie them up together with a ribbon.

Laura's Hula hoop game



Materials

Toilet roll / kitchen roll inserts

Paper plate

Glue, Sellotape, Scissors

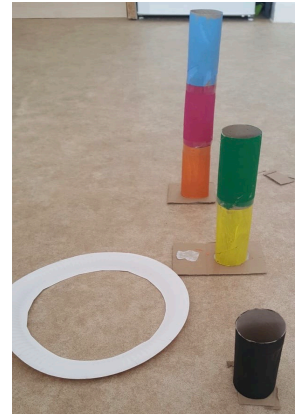
Paint (optional)



1. Paint toilet rolls and glue onto cardboard base. Sellotape rolls on top of each other to make towers of different heights.



2. Cut centre out of a paper plate



3. Ready to play!
Can you throw your hoop over your towers? What about if you step back a bit?

