



Activity ideas to support Learning at Home 2-5 year olds Early Years Service, Children's Services Buckinghamshire Council



Jigsaw Puzzles



Jigsaws are fantastic for practical spatial awareness and positional language. You can make your own by cutting up old celebration cards or cereal packets - adapting the number and shape of pieces to your child. Sit with your child to encourage them to.....turn it round more, that has a straight edge so goes on the outside, a corner, that matches that bit.....



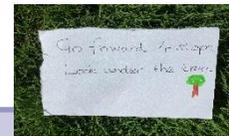
Puzzles



Exploring Maps



- Try drawing a simple map of your route to the local shop, park or the home of a friend or relative. You could also take some photos of key landmarks. Encourage your child to find the way walking there – looking for the landmarks. Talk about what you see.
- Encourage your child to draw a map and let them explain what it is about and maybe try it out together. Or on a dark starlight evening, imagine the route your rocket would take to get to the moon.



Treasure Hunts

Create a series of clues for your child to find something special – a small gift like a torch or a cuddly toy possibly. Depending on your child, you may need to explain parts and read most or all of the clues - picture symbols help them to guess. Introduce different ideas e.g. number of steps, fairy or giant steps, jumps, direction - forward, backwards, sideways.

Sharing a snack

Either use the picture or set up a similar group of foods to share out at home. You can share these between members of your family or a few cuddly toys. How would you decide who takes what? There are no right or wrong answers It is more the discussion around the sharing out that is most important.

Encourage children to peel their own fruit.

Ideas that may crop up include:

- I want the red apple, so do I!
- We can have a banana each.
- If we share the satsumas, there is one left.
- I don't like those yellow biscuits.
- Apples are more healthy than biscuits.
- You have the big orange.

Enjoy your snack together, chatting as you munch. Listen together to *The Doorbell Rang* story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-tqjCPnHLg>

Stick Collections



Find some sticks together. Talk about which is the shortest, longest or find one that is as wide as your hand. How many if we add one more? I wonder which one would make the best magic wand to help you travel to the stars?

Top Tips

- Use real objects, where safe e.g. fruit, spoons, cups. This helps children to understand more about their world e.g. weight, texture, smell.
- Eating a picnic together, indoors or out, to encourage children to try new foods – especially if they have helped to making them.
- Charity shops are a useful source of jigsaw puzzles and books.
- Value your child's input however insignificant it may appear to you.
- Model when things don't go right for you and allow your child to get things wrong – workout how to overcome such together – this builds resilience.

Find out more about your child's development

[What to expect when – Developmental Guide for Parents](#)

If you have any concerns the first thing you can do is chat to your child's Key Person at their Nursery or Pre-school or Childminder

Information for Parents/Carers



Find out More

[BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/teddy-bear-picnic/zhcd8xs>

[Small Talk - ideas for Parents](#)

[Hungry Little Minds Campaign](#)



Communication and Language

You might notice that your child can:

16-26 months

- Tell you the names of things that they want
- Start to use two word phrases e.g. *more juice* and use everyday words that are important to them e.g. *teddy*

22-36 months

- Show you what I understand when you ask *who, what where* e.g. *where is the post box*
- Use simple 3 or 4 word sentences to talk about what I am doing

30-50 months

- Ask lots of questions and answer some of yours

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

You might notice that your child can:

16-26 months

- Do things when you tell me what to do, rather than when you say "no"
- Play turn taking games like rolling a ball to an adult

22-36 months

- Sometimes stop themselves from doing something they know they should not do