

## Over 30 Activities

Below are over 30 ideas for stay at home play to keep you busy over a period of time! Many of the resources can be found at home

### 1 Colour Hunt

A super simple, but effective activity to get little ones moving and observing their surroundings in more detail, noticing things they may not have seen before. You can play this game as a simple " eye spy with my little eye, something to colour of..." or put together a sorting tray for objects to be collected.

### 2. Tea Party

You can either set this up using pretend food, or, for a bit of extra fun, why not use real food for lunchtime and dinner time? You and your child/children can take on the role of cafe owner and customer - ordering and serving food. You can extend this one as much as you like, adding in a bit of maths and calculating for the bill, and using real money to pay.



### 3. Indoor Obstacle

Use a few cushions on the floor as stepping stones, lay out a blanket as a 'river' to cross, hop over a book or two and weave in and out of a few beanbags. 'Balance' along a strip of masking tape on the floor and finish with some star jumps! The possibilities are endless and this is sure to help burn off a bit of excess energy.

### 4. Cutlery sorting and sock pairing

Now might be a great time to give your cutlery draw a good clean out, and who better to help you sort them into groups and sizes than your little ones? Can they help put the cutlery away into the right spaces.

Whilst you're at it, why not use this time to tackle that box of odd socks you've been collecting? Points for whoever can find the most pairs!

### 5. Toy wash

You can just use a tub or a bowl of soapy water. Have a range of cloths and sponges, and if you're worried about a wet floor, put a towel down or do it in the bath/shower!



### 6. Toy Sort

Very similar to sorting cutlery, but a bit more exciting! Have a sort out and challenge your children to group their toys into certain categories such as vehicles, wooden materials, metal, plastic, soft/hard. It's a great way to notice properties and build language with little ones.

### 7. Number Hunt

Set them off on a number hunt around the house and challenge them to take a photo every time they find one. (maybe let them use your phone?) ...when they return, you can look through the images together and name and recognise the number and ask them to complete a challenge relating to that number - such as 6 hops, or 4 pats on the head etc.

### 8. Letter Hunt

Similar to the number hunt, but this time, once they come back with the letters they find, challenge them to name an animal or an object starting with that letter sound! Perhaps think of some letter pairs for each sound - such as "silly sausage" or "pink pencil" etc.

### 9. Shape Hunt

They can go on a 'shape hunt' just like the number and letter hunt above. Help them to notice everyday items that may look like certain shapes - such as rectangle tables, triangle sandwiches etc. Small objects could be collected and grouped into shapes.

### 10. Cheerio Spaghetti Threading

A banana, some spaghetti sticks and some cheerios or dried pasta hoops! Encourage your children to thread the hoops onto the spaghetti. The best thing about this activity, is having a munch on it when you've finished!



### 11. Making potions

Perfect for keeping little hands busy for a spell, use any cups and containers you have available at home - pop them in a tub or a tray with some water, bubbles or food colouring, glitter and let them explore! You can turn them into sensory jars or sensory bottles.



### 12. Sink or float

Do make sure you discuss which items are ok to submerge in water and those that aren't before starting this activity (better still, collect some items together) and then place them in a tub of water, observing and talking about which ones float or sink - transparent plastic storage tubs work well for this! Plus, it's a great way of getting a bit of extra handwashing in there!

### 13. Threading (Fine motor)

Threading straws or pipe cleaners through your kitchen colander is fun and easy activity to give you 5 minutes peace. If you don't have straws or pipe cleaners, use spaghetti, or any pasta small enough to 'post' through the holes! If you have no colander, make a few holes in a cardboard box to post objects in and out of!

## 14. Shop

Add a bit of learning through play to your toy set up at home by adding price labels to toys and resources - better still, let your child have a go at writing the labels and recognising the numbers! Set up shop and get buying/selling!

## 15. Treasure basket

Fill a basket with sensory and real-life items such as wooden spoons, egg cups, whisk, ribbons, sponge, pots, loose parts, bangles, pegs, lolly sticks, etc (age appropriate sizes) and let them explore independently

## 16. Play dough



### *Fun with play dough*

- Encourage your child to help you make the play dough and follow the recipe together. As you heat the ingredients describe the changes that are happening. Talk about how you made the play dough, what you did using words like first, next, after and last.
- Give your child a cup cake tin or an empty egg box so that they can divide the play dough equally. Cut up straws, these make great candles for a play dough cake. Give your child plates, so that they can share with their teddies.
- Let your child use children's scissors or a pizza wheel to cut the play dough.

## Playdough Recipe

2 cups of flour

2 cups of water

1 cup of salt

4 teaspoons of cream of tarter

2 tablespoons of oil

Colouring

Put all the ingredients into a saucepan, cook on a gentle heat, stirring until the mixture leaves the side of the pan and becomes stiff.

### 17. Timed tower building

Most of us will have building blocks or bricks of some sort at home, whether this is wooden blocks, mega blocks, duplo or lego - grab yourself a sand timer, or set the timer on your phone and have a challenge of who can build the tallest tower before the time runs out!



### 18. Lego measuring

If you don't have lego, you can use any other smaller parts that you have at home such as cubes, buttons, beads or even pasta. Lay down on the floor and let your child 'measure' how many lego pieces long you are by laying them out next to you.

### 19. Salt writing

Writing in salt or couscous or similar.



### 20. Object sound hunt

Linking into phonics learning for little ones, give your child a 'sound' and challenge them to find as many objects starting with that sound as possible. As with the letter and number hunt, they could photograph these as they find them, or collect all of their items together. Great for consolidating initial sound learning for phonics.

### 21. Baking

Baking with children is a nice way to incorporate a bit of mathematical learning through counting and measures - with the added benefit of having something yummy to taste at the end of it! Whether you bake biscuits, a cake, homemade pasta or bread - it is the perfect stay at home activity!

## 22. Observational drawing of toys

Can your child draw their favourite toy?

## 23. Mini mud kitchen

Make a mini mud kitchen in a washing up bowl with old containers like yoghurt pots to fill and make mud pies.



## 24. Stick painting

You can collect sticks and twigs from outside and strip/whittle the before painting or just paint.

## 25. Scooping and pouring

Dried beans, lentils and rice. Scoop and tip into containers.

## 26. Bread painting

Mix up greek yoghurt with food colour as it was nice and thick, then paint this onto the bread and you can toast it under the grill to eat.

## 27. Pitta Pizzas

Pitta Pizzas are a great way for children to get involved in making their own food. Use mini pittas, tomato puree and cheese in a self-service tray for the children to spread and sprinkle by themselves!

## 28. Pegs

Attaching pegs to the rim of a basket or bowl and challenging them to pull them off and then put them back on is a fab fine motor work out for tiny fingers!

### 29. Sensory Water Bowl.

The perfect playtime to keep little hands clean and fresh too! Simply fill a tub or a tray with water and add in natural resources such as sliced lemon, rosemary, rose petals or lime! Include some scoops and pots for filling and pouring and leave them to it for a while.



### 30. Musical instruments

Make a musical instrument. Pots, pans and spoons for drums. Alternatively make a shaker in an old bottle with rice or pasta.

### 31. Sing your favourite song and record it.



34. Build a den inside or out. Maybe have a picnic in your den.

### 35. Make up a dance to your favourite music to show us on your return to nursery.

32. Send us a picture back to nursery our address is Ellingham Nursery Class

Ellingham Primary school

Ellingham Road

Chessington

KT9 2JA

33. Grow a seed into a plant - sunflowers

34 Enclosed are some seeds to grow  
34. Learn a new nursery rhyme - my favourite is Hey Diddle Diddle!

35. Hide toys in shaving foam for your child to explore

36. Read a book together every day.

