



People Who Help Us Topic COVID – 19 Home Learning Ideas

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you all had a wonderful Easter bank holiday weekend together and that you had some well deserved rest and family time together. It's so important to make happy memories together right now where you all had fun together as that is what your child/ children will remember the most from this season.

We're technically into the second week of Easter holidays, so as we continue together in Lockdown, we wanted to provide you with another additional topic with ideas and activities that you could choose to do with your family if you wanted to, but equally there isn't any pressure to. If you would rather have another week off of home – schooling and focus activities with your child/ children as it is the holidays that is completely okay! Do whatever is best for you as a family as that is the most important thing.

I decided this week that we would base our topic on dinosaurs! We did a one- week topic on dinosaurs at the beginning of the academic year in September. As the children loved this week so much (and lots of the children's favourite toys are still dinosaurs!) I thought it would be a lovely chance to revisit this learning and study dinosaurs in a greater depth to build on their prior knowledge and extend this understanding further.

We are continuing to post teaching videos, songs and activities on our Norcot Facebook page; they can also be found on the Norcot Early Years website as well. So please do watch them with your child/ children if you need any inspiration for ideas to do or if you want to be able to entertain your child for 10 minutes while you have a little rest!

You are all continuing to do a marvellous job of looking after your children at home as well as managing the home and getting in any work done in the evenings that you have to do for your normal jobs as well. We all admire you and think that you are doing a tremendous job so thank you for all of your hard work you are doing at this time. Please keep making sure that you all keep well and find time to rest as well. Being kind to yourselves is just as important as being kind to each other.

Many thanks for your co-operation,

Ellie Robinson

Teacher and Curriculum Lead at Norcot

Area of Development	Activities your children can engage with
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last week on Facebook we put up the challenge of mailing someone you love a hug! You could do this again with your child/ children this week as everybody needs a hug once in a while! If you have a long piece of paper encourage your child to lay back with their arms open wide and draw around their head, neck, shoulders and arms to create this drawing of a hug! Your child/ children can then colour the person in, giving them a face and decorating their sleeves and T-shirt. You could write a message to go with the picture of the hug, put it in an envelope and then send it to a family member or a friend. • Keep giving your child/ children jobs to do around the house. It's good for them to keep having responsibilities and it helps you out too! If it carries on being sunny they could help you to wash the car on the drive if you have one, they will love it! • At nursery our children help to tidy up their toys while we put the Tidy Up Rhumba on the screen! If you want to encourage your child/children to tidy up after their play at home putting this music on might help. I'll put the youtube link here to help: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dhw6JDF4A0Q • If your child is going to school this September, you should hopefully have your email or postal confirmation on the 16th April or find out following this date. You might want to start talking to your child about moving on to their new school and ask them how they are feeling about it. Celebrate this news together, and start talking about the new friends that they will make and the new teachers that they will get in September. It might be hard for them to process right now as they're not at nursery so school may feel like an even longer way off but beginning to talk together about new schools and the emotions that come with it all will help with the transition come the Autumn.
Communication and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a look at different types of dinosaurs in non-fiction books or look at pictures of dinosaurs online on a laptop, tablet or phone. Talk to them about the features that they can see. What colours are they? Are they short dinosaurs or tall dinosaurs? Do they have long necks or long tails? How many teeth do they have? What do the dinosaurs eat? Explain that some dinosaurs are carnivores (eat other smaller dinosaurs) and that some dinosaurs are herbivores (they eat plants). Talk about how they lay their eggs in nests (this links back to our Spring and New Life topic as we learnt that chickens lay eggs too!) • Have a discussion about what everyone's favourite dinosaur is at meal time and ask them to explain why. • Read some storybooks about dinosaurs together and discuss what the children can see in the pictures and see if they make comments on what they hear from the story. • Pretend to be a dinosaur with your child/ children and see if they can help to develop an imaginary story about dinosaurs within their play. • Complete some dinosaur crafts with your child and see if they can listen to the instructions you give them and demonstrate understanding by following the instructions eg draw a dinosaur, make dinosaur bones out of salt dough, paint a dinosaur jungle landscape etc.
Physical Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving and Handling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child/ children to pretend to be a dinosaur inside or outside in the garden and see if they can explore different ways of being a dinosaur and moving in the jungle. For example, they could

	<p>stomp through the desert, crawl through the jungle, splash through the water, run to catch their prey, stretch to eat the leaves etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You could hide some toy dinosaurs in the garden and then get the children to find them all. You could put some dinosaurs down in the plants and then put them higher up in the trees so they have to do a mix of crawling, crouching and stretching! • I would highly recommend continuing to participate in the PE sessions with Joe Wicks every weekday at 9am. They're continuing to be fab and he's even doing fancy dress sessions on Friday so the children have been loving it! • Oti Mabuse has also set up free kids dance classes from 11:30 – 12:14 (there are lots on youtube that you can watch and do together.) So if you fancy taking up a new hobby with your family, put on your dancing shoes and give it a go! • You could print off some dinosaur masks and dinosaurs (or draw your own) and see if the children can practise cutting them out to develop their finger strength. They can then wear these masks within their play! • You could dye some pasta green (if you have any spare!) and get some string out so that your child/ children can practise their fine motor skills and thread the pasta onto the string to make their own dinosaur bracelets and necklaces. • If you have any chinks, your child could have a go at drawing some big dinosaur feet in the garden so that they make their own dinosaur tracks. They can then jump, hop and walk over the dinosaur footprints that they have made. If you live in a flat, maybe your child could pretend to be a dinosaur who hops, jumps and stomps on your daily exercise walk.
<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and self care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As germs are still largely at bay at the moment, keep reminding your child/ children to wash their hands thoroughly using the baby shark song to help them: palm to palm, back to back, interlock, fingertips, now your thumbs, now your wrists, rinse your hands, dry your hands. • Encourage your child to choose the clothes that they want to wear for the day and see if they can start to get dressed for themselves as there is a lot of extra time in the day at the moment. They might need extra instructions with putting on certain items of clothes, especially with doing up buttons and pulling up zips on coats etc. But taking the time to help them practise this now will help them get ready for school when they will have to get changed for their PE sessions. • Make some dinosaur snacks with your child/ children and encourage them to help with the baking and cooking processes! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dinosaur bones snack! You will need: pretzels, raisins and white chocolate! Melt the white chocolate in a bowl in the microwave and stir in the pretzels and raisins. Scoop the mixture into cupcake cases and leave them to set in the fridge! Then they're good to eat! - Dinosaur footprint cookies! Use a normal cookie recipe. (You can find them online or you might have one you already like to use!) Once you have cut out the cookie circle shapes, use a clean toy dinosaur and press their feet into the dough of the cookies to leave some footprints! Then put the cookies in the oven to bake and once they have cooled down, enjoy eating them!
<p>Literacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at some dinosaur books with your children for storytime or let them look at some dinosaur books independently or with their siblings. • Find some sticks in the garden or out on your daily exercise walk and have a go at drawing some dinosaur footprints together in the mud or

	<p>soil! You could even draw some dinosaurs in the mud if you're all feeling up to the challenge!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make some dinosaur terrain using cornflour, water and food colouring and mix it together in a tray to make a paste. (you could use any colour you like!). Your child/ children can have a go at drawing letters, dinosaurs and footprints in the cornflour paste with spoons or sticks. • When your child is pretending to be an archaeologist or palaeontologist studying the dinosaur bones that they have made out of salt dough (see Understanding the world activities below) they could then have a go at drawing the dinosaur bones that they have discovered to add this to their research! • Your child could design their own dinosaur jungle land, adding volcanoes, trees, waterfalls, exotic plants and deserts to their dinosaur habitat that they create. • Put some toy dinosaurs out on the table for the children to have a go at sketching or painting. • Learn some dinosaur songs together that you find on the internet, hopefully there will be some on the Facebook page and Norcot website you can learn together too! • Complete some shadow drawings of dinosaurs. Put some toy dinosaurs out in the sun and have some paper to go behind the shadow so that your child / children can draw around the shadows of the toy dinosaurs.
<p>Maths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can make some dinosaur bones with your child/ children out of salt dough. (Also links to activity in the Understanding the World section.) You can create different length bones with the children and then when they are cooked the children can measure the dinosaur bones with rulers or tape measures and identify how long they each are. They can also put the dinosaur bones in size order from the shortest to the longest. • You could cut out different sized dinosaur feet when the children have gone to bed and leave them out on the floor for the children to find the next morning. They can explore looking at the different shaped feet and seeing where they go. Once they have got over the excitement of having dinosaur feet in the house, you can then help them to measure the different feet, again with rulers or tape measures. You could extend this activity by getting the children to measure the dinosaur feet in different ways eg how many shoes fill up each dinosaur foot? How many pillows fill up each dinosaur foot? Etc • You could help your children to measure the height and length of different dinosaur toys they have with duplo bricks! We would use cubic measuring bricks at nursery, but you can use something else that you have at home like the duplo! Your child can then count how many bricks it takes to make the same length and height as the dinosaur that they are measuring. • You could make some dinosaur eggs with your child / children out of playdough, paper mache or kitchen foil and count how many you make for the dinosaur nests together. You could start exploring the concept of sharing with your child and share out the eggs between 2 – 3 dinosaurs and see if your child/ children can have a go at sharing them out equally.
<p>Understanding the World</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have some little dinosaur toys and some balloons you can make some dinosaur eggs for your child/ children to explore. You put the little dinosaur inside of the balloon (you will need to open the neck of the balloon, it might need stretching first). Fill up the balloons with water and leave them in the freezer overnight. If you don't have balloons or if

	<p>your dinosaurs are too big for them you could put the dinosaur toys in normal plastic containers, fill them with water and then again, put them in the freezer overnight. The next day put your frozen dinosaurs in a washing up bowl and let your children explore feeling them and trying to chisel them out of the ice! You could give them spoons to use or jugs or cups to pour water over the ice. Talk about what happens with the ice with your child/ children as they manipulate it and see if they notice the patterns of change from ice to water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your child could pretend to be an archaeologist for the day! You could put some dinosaurs (or salt dough dinosaur bones) into bowl of sand. You could then give your child a spade, paintbrush and ruler and model to them how to dig the dinosaurs and bones out of the sand, brush of the sand with a paintbrush and study their features. You could also show them how to measure the length of their dinosaurs or bones that they discover using the ruler. • You could put dinosaurs out in a tray for your child / children to explore. They could make up stories for the dinosaurs or compare the similarities and differences between the different dinosaurs that they use in their play. If you don't mind mess you could even make some dinosaur slime, mud paste or cornflour paste for the dinosaurs to go in! For slime you need PVA glue, contact lens solution, food colouring for different coloured slime and water. For cornflour paste you need some cornflour, water and food colouring to make it look like a dinosaur jungle terrain.
Expressive Arts and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put some poster paints out in a tray and show your child /children how they can paint the bottom of the different dinosaur toys feet that they have with a paintbrush. These children can then press the dinosaur toys onto the paper to make different dinosaur footprints. They can then talk about the different sizes and shapes of the dinosaur tracks that they make with the paint (link back to Maths, space and measure.) • You could also leave dinosaur toys out in front of your child/children so that they can do observational drawings or paintings of the different dinosaurs that they have. If you don't have toy dinosaurs, you can get some up on a screen for them to copy. This will give the children opportunities to do colour mixing as well. • You could find some dinosaur music to play and pretend to be different dinosaurs in the wilderness with them or help them to create their own dinosaurs. Eg They could stomp and stand up tall for T-Rex, they could flap their arms like wings for pterodactyls etc. • Use some junk modelling materials that you would normally throw away like cardboard boxes, toilet roll tubes etc to make 3D dinosaurs with them. They could then paint their 3D dinosaurs afterwards. • You could help your child/ children to make a dinosaur den inside (or out in the garden if you have one and your child/children can then make up an imaginary game about being dinosaurs together! If you have green or brown material you could use this to make the dinosaur jungle set. You could use some blue fabric to make a pretend waterfall or lake for the dinosaurs to drink from and use a box as a nest! Let your children's imagination go wild as they help you to build it all!

Please add any observations onto your child's Tapestry account so that we can see all of the fun and learning that your child gets up to at home. Thanks in advance, Ellie. 😊

[Website links you can go to for further resources:](#)

If you click on the link below it will take you to a website that has the entire list of education companies offering free subscriptions due to school closings. They provide direct links for you below. All you need to do is click the link and follow the instructions on that website to sign-up.

<https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/135609/list-of-education-companies-offering-free-subscriptions/?fbclid=IwAR0cLZIW8pqpFZZAOK1DSFcDfIQaxcyVqWWOHejF38y5tJVVRvXldQqvwZk>

Please have a look and see which resources you think would be most helpful to you and your child. When you click on the link of the title, it might need to redirect you but they should work!

Some of these website links will be more suitable for any older siblings in the family.

When you go to the website I would highly recommend Twinkl as a brilliant resource!

Twinkl is giving parents a free log in that they can use at the moment and they provide a whole range of print out sheets from colouring pages to counting activity sheets to fact sheets that you might find helpful to use with your child during this time.

Here are some other great sites offering free resources that you can print off to use with your child which are relevant to the early years curriculum and look great! There will be loads of useful resources on these sites that are suited for younger children's learning.

<https://www.earlyyearsresources.co.uk/downloadables-c275>

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

<https://littleowlsresources.com/>

<https://www.early-education.org.uk/download-free-resources>

<https://www.earlylearningfurniture.co.uk/free-resources/>

www.naturallylearning.co.uk

<https://small-talk.org.uk/>