



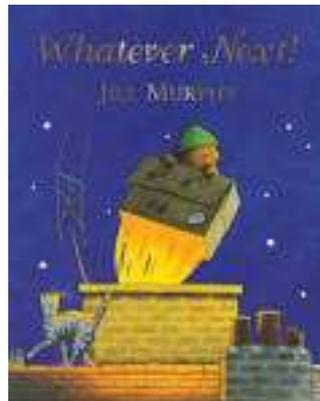
SPACE

COVID – 19 Home Learning Ideas

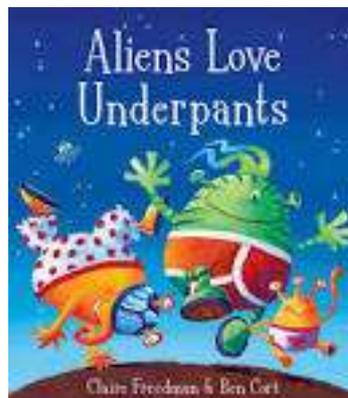
Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you all have enjoyed reading lots of different books to your children this week, and loving listening to their own stories. It's all about having fun in these uncertain and different times. If you did join in with last weeks learning we really hope that you captured it by putting it on to tapestry for us to see too.

This weeks home schooling is all about Space. We will be doing space for 2 weeks. The first week (27th April) learning about space will have the book focus of "Whatever Next" written by Jill Murphy.



The second week of space (4th May) will be focused round the book "Aliens love underpants" written by Claire Freedman.



We've decided to give you the planning for both weeks, as there will be lots of exciting home learning opportunities to do, and you can plan your home learning a little easier if you have the full activities.

National Space Day this year is **Friday 1st May 2020**. At Norcot we would be encouraging your children to come in dressed up to celebrate; the only difference this time is we are going to ask you to dress up at home, but ask you to upload your fantastic creations onto tapestry! We are enjoying seeing what you are getting up to at home 😊

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!

We just want to keep telling you what a fantastic job we think you are doing! Please keep the great work. I know it may feel hard at times, but we can get through this together, and if you ever need help or advice, you can talk to your key workers, or message on the Facebook website and someone will get back to you as soon as they can to help. I definitely think you need another clap from Norcot, so.....give yourself a big clap, pat on the back, a whoop whoop and you even get a special Norcot shimmy, so hands on your hips, 1,2,3, shimmy!!!! Remember, you have got this, and whatever you can do is fantastic! Keep going!

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,

Lian Robinson-Ryan

Team leader of Star room and staff governor



Home learning about Space for week 6 & 7 of isolation: w.b 28.04.2020 & w.b. 04.05.2020

Area of Development	Activities your children can engage with
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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! Carry on the jobs of planting seeds/ watering seeds if you have a garden or a plant shelf. • 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 • Have an indoor or outdoor picnic with your children just like the one in "whatever next", encourage them to help make the sandwiches, and lay down the blanket, pack the bag for the "rocket" etc. • Encourage your children to take turns with sharing resources you may have for space, such as if you make a rocket, then a use of a sand timer may help with the aid of turn taking. Take in turns who is the captain etc. • Encourage your children to play eye spy games with the whole family, giving them clues if needed. This is also great for practising phonics, for example "I spy with my little eye something beginning with Aaa....aaa....aaa....alien!" you may have to get creative and either draw some space pictures such as planets, rockets, aliens etc and scatter them around your house/garden. • Talk about planet Earth, and who lives here, and how many people live on planet Earth? Look up where England is on a globe/ atlas; this will cover maths too, as it's looking up how small England is compared to Russia for example. Talk about the cold parts of the planet etc. • Keep using mirrors to encourage your children to understand what happy, sad, cross, worried, angry looks like. You may have to demonstrate this to them, and then reassure them that it's ok to feel the way they are feeling. This may come in useful when talking about going to big school in September, or moving up rooms in nursery. • Talk about how the bear is feeling in space by himself, talk about which underpants are your favourite and why? • Remember to keep trying to participate in healthy exercises, as this relieves stress and tension your children might have built up from not being able to go out as normal. Again, Joe wicks PE on Youtube is great, or even try some kids yoga. There are plenty of them on Youtube. • Maybe on one of your one walks a day, your children could pick up some large stones/ rocks they find, and paint the planets on them, or encourage them to write nice messages on them to cheer people up and then on your next day walk, encourage your children to hide them, so people can read a lovely message, and share the love to one another. • If you enjoyed making your reading book dens, then how about making them into space dens this time, they may even want to sleep in them. • If you have a garden, why don't you set up a tent if you have one in

	<p>the back garden, so you can fall asleep under the stars, and if you don't have a garden, still set up a tent or "Hideaway" and put some stars on the TV or ipad etc for them to watch. This is great family memory to share together.</p>
<p>Communication and Language</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a look at different types of books liked to space; you may have space magazines at home, or other space related books such as Q Pootle, other Aliens love underpants stories, factual space books, science books that talk about space/ stars/ planets etc. • Talk about which planet you like the most and why? • If you have walkie talkies, then this is great not only for role playing, but it's great for them to communicate, and have to learn to listen and wait for the other persons response. • Find out facts about the planets, and recap them with your children, for example, Earth is the only planet that has humans living on it. The sun is the largest star etc. See if your children can remember these facts and share them back with the family. • Encourage your child/ children to join in with space songs, there's great space songs on Youtube that we play in the background at Norcot, that are very informative and also VERY catchy. Keep an eye out on Norcot Facebook page, as I will be putting links up to the songs for everyone to join in with. • Talk to your child about what they liked about the stories or pictures, or the recipes they followed and why? Don't forget to put their opinions onto tapestry so we can hear them too. • Encourage your children to role play Space, for example, working at NASA's station, maybe set up an old laptop or key board for them to tap on, give them pads of paper, to "write down" important space messages, role playing the "whatever next" story, and taking on the role of the bear etc, or pretending to be an Alien, arriving on Earth. • Recap with your children about the recent topics they have been learning, again, it's great to spiral teach and learn, so encouraging them at the start of the week to remember and talk about what they liked from last weeks learning. • Talk to your children about the importance of Astronauts staying fit and healthy, as they will be in space for long periods of time. • Talk to your children about space food, and how they won't have a cooker, or a "normal" house to live in but they live inside a rocket. Show your children pictures of inside a rocket and where the Astronauts will sleep and work etc. • Talk about the different clothes the Astronauts have to wear when in space. • Talk about why the Astronauts float in space; there's no gravity? So it's like being a balloon and floating around etc. • See if your children can name any planets or Astronauts before helping them to learn new ones. • When sitting around the dinner table, maybe have a list of facts that you can share together, and see which one is their favourite fact.
<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving and Handling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up your own indoor/ outdoor space training obstacle course, encourage your children to use the equipment safely, and take it down safely, working together to make the obstacle course, and taking turns to have a go. See who can complete the obstacle course the fastest. • Encourage your child/ children to pretend to be an Astronaut on the

	<p>moon, and walking really slowly, or pretend to be an Alien, and walk on your hands and feet etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play musical statues, but call it musical Astronauts, so they have to dance really slowly, and when the music has stop, they need to freeze! • You could make your own props for your space adventure, for example, cutting out pictures from magazines to stick onto your rocket etc • Encourage the use of different construction materials to create your own space rockets, planets, space stations, aliens etc • 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 go onto youtube and look up Cosmic yoga. She great, she tells stories, whilst doing very simple yoga moves, it's great for everyone to join in with....yes mums and dads, that means you too! No excuses! • If you have child friendly scissors, or you sit with your children and do hand over hand helping with adult scissors, then they could cut out pictures from magazines, or colouring in sheets you could print off to help create their space projects. • If you have any chalks, your child could have a go at drawing the solar system on the floor, using lots of different colours for the planets. They could draw their own space rockets etc
<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. • Again encourage your children to try dress themselves if they want to dress up in role play clothes, they may need help with the Velcro at the back. • As the weather is heating up, talk about appropriate clothing, and what do you think they need to wear? A woolly hat or a sun hat? Shorts or trousers? Also, encourage your child to start helping to apply their own sun cream, as those going to school in September will need to be able to help with this in the warmer months. • Encourage your children to help prepare their own "space picnic", choosing their sandwich filler, or their favourite drink to take with them etc. • Talk about importance of healthy eating for an Astronaut, and the different kinds of foods they may of eaten in space • TOILETING: If your child is starting to want to use the toilet, this is the

	<p>perfect time to start trying, especially as the weather has heated up, and you may find you have a little bit more time to focus on helping them achieve this. Some advice: only encourage your children if they are showing signs of being ready, for example, telling you that they have done a poo, or holding themselves when having a wee in their nappy. My personal opinion is that if you are going to try toilet train, then don't use pull ups; they are more expensive and they have the same feel as wearing a nappy, so your children won't know when they are wet or soiled. I know it will be a lot more washing, but again, you can encourage your children to help you with this, and bringing the other learning into it, but I would suggest just putting them into knickers or pants. Make this an exciting transition, that they get to wear BIG girl or boys underwear, and use the BIG toilet. Give them the choice in which underwear they would like. Link it to "Alien's love underpants" and talk about the different underwear they took etc. The key is not to FORCE anything. If they want to sit on the toilet or potty for a few seconds, start with that. Get them familiarised with what they do, maybe show them before putting them on it. I would encourage you showing them how to sit or stand at the toilet (this does include dad's too). Allow them plenty of time to get to the toilet, and if they are comfortable sitting on the toilet, then maybe sing a song, whilst they are sitting, and if they can tolerate longer, maybe two songs. Try to remind them if they need the toilet by asking, and make them really think if they do or not, especially if they have been drinking more in the hot weather. Remember, they are going to have accidents, but it's really important that we reassure them that it's ok, and accidents can be cleaned. If you think they are ready, then go for it! If you think your children will need a sticker chart for a reward maybe make these one of their home learning targets, or some children just love the praise! Let us know how you are getting on by putting it on tapestry! If you need anymore helps or tips you can talk to your key worker or message us on Facebook 😊</p>
<p>Literacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the two weeks we are going to be focusing around two books the first week will be "whatever next" and the second week will be "aliens love underpants", after reading or listening to these stories ask your children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - why do you like this book? Is it thumbs up or down? - Who is your favourite character and why? - Maybe see if they can remember the story just from looking at the pictures in the book - See if they can recall the book from beginning to end - See if they can name key parts in the story, even if the younger ones can point to the box and say "rocket" etc - Talk to them about why you like the story or didn't like it • Look at all different kinds of books, and media, such as watching a space launch live, reading science books about the planets, reading facts rocket ships, reading instructions on how to build a toy rocket etc. Encourage your children to see there is a whole range of print out there that gives us information about key topics they are interested in. • Keep a look out on our Facebook page for more stories from the staff, and don't forget to either give the story a thumbs up or a thumbs down, and tell us what you liked and didn't like about the story on tapestry. We look forward to hearing from you.

- Find props around the house that you could use to create your own space stations, rockets, aliens, and for them to be a narrator in their own role play, for example, they may have an alien attack and need help etc.
- Encourage your child to start writing more, not just their name, but give them some easy words and numbers they can copy, to help them to write on their rockets
- Have a tray/ plate which can have flour, or salt in for your child to mark make in, to practice forming their letters and numbers. You can start by encouraging them to use their finger, then maybe holding a lollipop stick, or stick, then onto holding a pencil or pen as they create letters or marks in the tactile material.
- If you have magnetic letters like you get on your fridge, encourage your child to use these to help them visually see the letters to copy.
- There's great ideas out there to help your child such as:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/225672631305241457/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/50243352075955265/>



Maths

- Talk to your children about the different planets in our solar system, count them with your child, do this as a 1:1 counting activity. Talk about where Earth is in the solar system, it's third from the sun etc.
- Look at the planets and discuss which is the LARGEST planet, and which is the smallest planet in the solar system
- One night, you could lay outside and count the stars in the sky, so if they can see the big dipper, and the milkyway and see if they can draw the shape of what they look like etc
- When role playing space stations, encourage your children to either count up or down, start with 1,2,3...3,2,1...then move it up 1,2,3,4,5...5,4,3,2,1 and then see if they can go all the way to 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10....10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1 etc
- You could play a game where you have to measure things in moon steps, for example, how long is your garden in moon steps, these can be LARGE moon steps, or small moon steps etc
- Encourage your children to join in with space cooking activities such as making moon cakes/ rock cakes
https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/rock_cakes_03094 and I'm sure our amazing Chef Rukni will be showing you some delicious treats too!
- Another cooking activity is to make solar system biscuits, again, encourage your children to think about the size of the planets, and what they look like etc <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/planet-cookies>
- When looking at Aliens loves underpants, look at the different patterns of underpants there are, and ask your children to pick their favourite

	<p>and why? And see if they can describe the patterns to you. Maybe they can draw their own underpants for the aliens, using different patterns and sizes etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your children to join in singing “5 little men in a flying saucer” and as they fly off, encourage your children to put their fingers down, to represent the number • Using chalk on the floor, encourage your children to experiment with writing the numbers out on the floor, they may need you to do it first for them to copy. • If you have construction pieces/ different shapes at home, or if you don't, can cut some out, and encourage your children to name the shapes, and form different pictures, for example, use a triangle for the top of the rocket, maybe a square or rectangle for the body of the rocket, and then a rectangle on it's side for the base of the rocket, give it a go and don't forget to show us your creations on tapestry.
<p>Understanding the World</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your children to use the internet to find out some space facts, and when they have a favourite, for them to tell their keyworker this via tapestry and explain why they like the fact, was it a thumbs up or thumbs down etc • Encourage your children to watch the youtube songs about the planets, I will add the links on Norcot Facebook to help you locate them. • Encourage your children to listen to an online interview with an Astronaut to hear from them what it was like to be on the rocket. • Do some science experiments with you children to create rockets; again I will put some safe science experiments to do with your children. • If you have any old ICT toys that your children could role play with, then you could let them set up their own NASA station, or use them in their rockets etc. • Encourage your children to take photos of their creations they've done, to help them with their ICT skills. • Maybe encourage your children to audio record themselves, and see if you can change the tone, so they sound like an Alien, or if you have any voice changes, bring these into play so they can really take on the role of being an Alien. • If you have any magnets at home, why don't you encourage your children to create a tray of all different objects, and talk about whether they are magnetic or non-magnetic. Maybe encourage them to guess before using the magnet etc • As we put up before on Norcot Facebook, about the importance of treasure baskets, why don't you try to make a treasure/ tactile tray will metal objects, or objects that look spacey. • If you have any plastic bottles, please save them, these can be used for so many things, such as musical instruments, rockets, science experiments, and for the babies, they can be used as sensory bottles. • This is a great time to be using any ICT toys that you, for example, going in the garden when it's darker, and using touches to see things etc.
<p>Expressive Arts and Design</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your children to make their own space props, for example, getting two plastic bottles, and either painting them or stick tinfoil on them to create oxygen tanks for the Astronauts to use.

- If you have balloons at home and PVA glue, maybe you could papier-mâché the different planets, and colouring them in using the tablet, or books to see the colours of the planets etc
- Make your own play dough, and add in food colouring if you have it and some glitter to give it some sparkle like the stars, again, keep looking on the Norcot Facebook, as I will be putting links on to show you how to make all these wonderful things for space ☺
- If you have a tray you tough tray in the garden, or a sand pit, then you could change it into a space scene, for example make some aliens that your child could colour in and cut out (they may need hand over hand help to do this), put some "space buggies" in there, some "space rocks" etc, let your children's imagination go wild!
- You could encourage your children to look up the different planets, and try to free draw them, and create their own solar system, by finding some sticks, and string, to make a space mobile.
- Whilst taking part in role play activities or creative activities, have some space music on in the background, and use the music to create with the role play, for example, have the traditional NASA count down 5,4,3,2,1....blast off...!
- Use a tablet or laptop or smart TV to put a space background up so your children can really feel and pretend they are in outer space.
- If you have any boxes from deliveries etc, then encourage your children to create their own Space rocket, just like in "whatever Next", they could choose the colours, the pictures on the outside, they made need you to help print off things such as the dashboard, or you could draw this on or encourage them to do so etc
- Use some junk modelling materials that you would normally throw away like cardboard boxes, toilet roll tubes etc to make more of your space props.
- You could have a messy day with a tray of cornflour, and encourage your children to put drops of food colouring into it so create patterns, that could look like different coloured planets, aliens etc.
- Encourage your children to make salt dough planets, and colour them in, by looking at pictures of the planets, and encourage them to mix colours, and recap which colours made which for example, red and blue make purple, green and red make brown, red and yellow make orange etc

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! ☺

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!

Twinkle 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/>