

COVID – 19 Home Learning Ideas Topic - Rainforests

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you all have enjoyed our home learning suggestions, and our Facebook uploads about the Oceans. It has been great to see the children's work both in school and on tapestry and I know I have enjoyed learning about all the creatures in the Ocean. We love to see what everyone has been doing so please do upload your photos, videos and comments on your child's tapestry account.

For the next two week's home schooling is all about Rainforests. For the first week our book focus will be "We're Roaming through the Rainforest" written by Laurie Krebs and Anne Wilson. Followed by our second week focused book being "Monkey Puzzle" written by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, which is one of my favourite stories.



We are continuing to post teaching videos, songs and activities on our Norcot Facebook page, they can 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 take a break!

Everyone is really doing such an amazing job! Please keep up the great work. If you need advice for further learning, or strategies to use with your children at home then please talk to your key workers on your weekly calls, email, or send us a message and someone will get back to you as soon as they can to help. Remember, to be kind to yourselves and your families.

Many thanks for your co-operation,

Karen Hewitt

Teacher of Sun room and SENCO

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! Here's the tidy up song we use at nursery: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dhw6JDF4A0Q • Encourage your children to sit down and listen to the information and facts about about Rainforests, and talk through the questions we may have put on Facebook • If your children are back in nursery, just remind them their good hygiene, and to "seek their safe grown up" if they are feeling scared, sad, angry, confused • Encourage your children to talk about the Rainforest animals they like and why, and you tell them yours, and then together you may want to look up more facts and learn more about them. Make sounds for rainforest animals. • Remember it's good to recap past learning opportunities and topics we have been teaching, so you are always spiral learning, and making sure that your children are taking on what is being taught • Sit down with your children at the end of the day and listen to how their day was, and if they feel sad because it was "different" then again, use the social stories to explain why it has to be "different" and why we have to have these "bubbles". For the ones not returning, again, just talk to your children about why nursery isn't fully opened, and the importance of keeping safe • Remember to role model good manners and behaviour to your children, for example, saying "please and thank you", offering to help when someone needs it etc, especially role model good hygiene for hand washing 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 p ... parrot" You could spy things in rainforest pictures together. • 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. This might be useful as well to talk through emotions of how your child is feeling if they have gone back to nursery etc. • Sit down together and listen to the stories on Norcot's Facebook or the links that have been put up for you to watch. • 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. • Talk to children about their favourite rainforest animals. Children can help to make bread versions of rainforest animals eg rolling out a long snake bread. • Look at pictures of rainforests that are under threat from being cut down and consider how it makes you feel. Think about how we can help our rainforests and rainforest animals. • Think about how you would feel if you were lost like the monkey in monkey puzzle – who could you ask for help? • Look at pictures of Mums or grown-ups who live with us at home and talk about how they are their main adults at home – link to Monkey Puzzle. The monkey loves his

	<p>Mummy and wants to find her and helps the butterfly describe what she looks like. Talk to the children about how we help and look after each other.</p>
<p>Communication and Language</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a look at different types of books or video links that we have put on Norcot's Facebook linked to rainforests; you may have information books at home, why don't you get them out and talk through them with your children, ask them to describe what they can see on the page etc • Take time at the end of the day to reflect on how the day was, try to keep this as comments rather than questions eg "my best thing today was... I wonder what your best thing was?" • Talk about the different animals you might see in a rainforest. How are they the same or different (eg some can fly, some have spots, some have fur) • Encourage your children to join in singing familiar songs linked to rainforests etc, such as "walking through the jungle" • Find out facts about the rainforest and see if your children can recap them by the end of the week • 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. • 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 week's learning. • 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 about the rainforests?
<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving and Handling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the use of different construction materials to create your own rainforest • We highly recommend continuing to participate in the PE sessions with Joe Wicks or dance classes with Oti Mabuse. • You could go onto Youtube and look up Cosmic yoga. She great, she tells stories, whilst doing very simple yoga moves. • Sit with your children and support with using scissors to cut out pictures from magazines, or colouring in sheets you could print off to help create their rainforest scenes. • Lots of digging and planting in the garden/ outside. Encouraging your children to working together and moving things where you need them – pushing, pulling and lifting is good to develop core muscles and will help to give children the exercise they need. • This is lovely time to get creative, and draw your own rainforest animals, or copy your favourite ones using lots of different materials, such as paint, chalk, junk modelling, etc • Try some fun cooking or baking activities – you can have lots of fun baking animal shaped bread for a rainforest picnic, make rainforest banana trees, jelly worms in the chocolate biscuit mud, chameleon apple face slices, alligator shortbread, rice crispy cake rainforest trees or strawberry, banana and chocolate snakes! Encourage children to use blunt knives to spread butter or jam on bread or to help chop vegetables (with adult closely watching the use of child safe knives). • Encourage using cutlery for children to feed themselves both at meal times and as part of role play.
<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

<p>h a n d s e lf c a r e</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Encourage your children to help prepare their own healthy snacks, choosing their sandwich filler, or their favourite drink etc. Trying different food, such as different types of healthy fish etc Perhaps you can try eating some healthy rainforest fruits like bananas, coconut, oranges, pineapple, papaya, mangoes. Or even look at avocados, figs, dates and passion fruit. Go for a walk in the woods if you are able to, encourage walking on different surfaces eg logs, paths, hills. Pretend you are walking in the rainforest and imagine what you can see.
<p>Literacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the week listen to the stories/ videos we've put up on Norcot's Facebook and ask your children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - why do you like this book? Is it thumbs up or down? - 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 picture etc - Talk to them about why you like the story or didn't like it • Look at all different kinds of books, and media related to rainforests. • Encourage your children to retell or make up their own stories, and encourage them to draw, and write it out • Look at Information books or information on the tablet/computer and find out about Rainforests. Use an Atlas to show your children where the rainforests are located. • 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. • Read "we are roaming through the rainforest" or "Monkey puzzle" and find or create props that you could use to create your own rainforest area or retell the story. Learn the repetitive phrases to join in with the story. • Draw the story – make a story map of the events that happen in the stories. Make sounds for the animals we meet as we go along. • Encourage your child to start writing more, not just their name, but give them some easy words and numbers they can copy, for example naming the different rainforest animals "sloth, jaguar, gorilla. Toucans" • 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. • Think about rhyme and rhyming words. Can you make up your own rhymes? You can sing rhymes and change the rhyming words or try finding objects that rhyme for the silly soup game. There is a video to show how to do silly soup below. <p>https://www.google.com/search?q=silly+soup+game+instructions&rlz=1C1GCEB_enGB850GB853&og=silly+soup+game&aqs=chrome..69i57j0l8.8048j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=xRTrXpT3AY6Y1fAPwPSK6Ac63</p>
<p>Maths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind children about the 2 metre distance rule, and show them by using a tape measure, steps, ties, socks, shoes, to measure out 2 metres, and explain that to "keep safe" it's best to keep "2 metres away from people" • Sing number rhymes such as 5 little monkeys jumping on a bed – show how many there are with fingers and use the terms "take away" or "add." You can make your own props to help with singing the rhymes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have rainforest toy animals at home you can encourage mathematical language as the children play eg look at the crocodile's big long tail or compare which animals are the "biggest" and "smallest" Encourage counting the toys and finding amounts – please can you pass me 2... • Make paperchain snakes to decorate your house! Make patterned snakes on strips of paper and link them together. How long can you make your chain? hOw many links did you make? • Still encourage your children to help you with chores such as taking the washing out and pairing the different socks together, working out by the sizing, who's clothing is it, mum, dads, etc • Encourage your children to follow instructions on recipe cards, making sure they weigh the ingredients out correctly eg. for rainforest bread
Underst anding the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your children to use the internet to find out facts about the rainforest and the people and animals that live there. What is the weather like? How does it look? Compare to England and find similarities and differences. • Encourage your children to try the different rainforest foods such as mango, avocado, figs, and don't forget to give it a thumbs up or down and get them to tell you why? • 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 using things such as sticks, leaves, fake fur fabric, • Create a sensory rainforest tray full of leaves, twigs, slime, water, mud, cornflour mix etc with children to explore: smelling, mark making, touching.
Expressi ve Arts and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your children to make their own places of reflection, it might be a quiet area where they can go and read a book, or think about their loved ones, draw pictures for their loved ones, but a place where they can go to think and be still ☺ • Encourage your children to look closely at different rainforest animals – can you use different textures to create your own representation of these animals – perhaps using fabric to collage the fur on a sloth or feathers for a parrot. • Role play- encourage your children to role play: maybe "walking through the jungle" (using the song as an inspiration, and acting out the different animals you meet. • Encourage your children to use junk modelling objects to create their own rainforest and animals. • Listen to different kinds of rainforest inspired music. Use musical instruments to make your own music. You can even try making your own rainmaker! • Use floaty pieces of fabric for children to put over themselves or use to dance to while they listen to the rainforest music. Use feathers to stroke on arms and faces while they listen to music or dance with them. Children can make up their own rainforest dances to accompany the rainforest music and pretend to be different rainforest animals while the music is playing through actions and moves

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!

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/>