

The Chiltern School

Home Learning - Early Transitions

There are lots of games and activities you can do with your child to have fun together and get them developing important skills, such as developing eye-hand co-ordination, developing speaking and listening skills, building vocabulary, counting and other early literacy and numeracy skills. Most important of all, these ideas are great fun! Here are some ideas.

Games and activities

1. Read books together

Read books to your child: picture, words and pictures, pop up, information and poetry.

2. Sing counting songs

Singing helps children to develop their speaking and listening skills and to have fun with words. Counting songs, like '1, 2, 3, 4, 5 ... Once I caught a fish alive', can help your child to have fun with numbers. Other songs such as 'Ten Green Bottles' or 'Three Little Frogs' progress in reverse order, which can be especially helpful when young children start thinking about adding and taking away. Using fingers as counters can be a useful way to make a visual link between numbers and quantity.

3. Dressing up

Dressing up and role play are great opportunities for talking and listening and for imaginative play. On a practical level, a fun dressing up session can help your child to practise getting themselves dressed. You can fit in a sneaky bit of training with those tricky zips, armholes and buttons.

4. Play maths games

Try these fun games with your child to practise maths skills and help to build your child's confidence. Most children love playing games and it's an easy way to support their learning.

5. Phonic games

- Play snap or bingo with letters and sounds. Write letters on pieces of papers or cards, to create homemade flashcards. Make two for each letter. Use them to play snap. You could also create a bingo card with eight boxes – each one containing a letter. Put the flashcards into a pile, facing down and take it in turns to be the bingo caller.
- Play phonics fishing! Use homemade letter flashcards, add a paperclip to each, tie a magnet to some string and a stick and ask your child to 'fish' for a particular sound.
- Play 'I spy' games, e.g. 'I spy something beginning with a...' using the letter sound.

6. Memory games

- Play 'Kim's game'. Put a few items on a tray (e.g. a crayon, an apple, a building brick, a toy car). Then look, cover, remember and check!
- Talk about, photograph or write out some 'events' from something you have done together – can your child remember the correct order?
- Go shopping – try to remember the list together!

The Chiltern School

Home Learning - Early Transitions

7. Listening games

- Play games such as 'Simon says' – party games are often good ways to practice speaking, listening and memory skills, without them even noticing!
- Listen to music and talk about the instruments being played – find pictures on the internet together.

8. Action games

- Make a puppet theatre with cardboard boxes or a towel over a chair and encourage your child to make up or retell a story to you or any willing family members!
- Have lots of fun dressing up with clothes and props at home (charity shops are a great source!) so that your child can dress up as a character and act out favourite stories.
- Play games such as 'What's the time Mr Wolf?', but instead of saying the time write the times down for them to read.

9. Tactile games

- Use magnetic letters to spell names and simple words on the fridge or radiator.
- Use modelling clay to make your child's name or simple words like mum.
- Enjoy jigsaws together and chat about finding the right pieces!

11. Cook together

- Cooking with your child is an excellent way to spend time, practise and talk about key maths skills – counting eggs for a cake recipe, measuring and weighing ingredients together. Best of all, you both get to enjoy a tasty treat at the end!

12. Sing and play together

Children enjoy exploring and experimenting with language and it helps them to learn new words and their meanings and also to listen to the sounds that make those words. So sing, rhyme, shout, whisper, rap and dance to the beat!

Use pans and wooden spoons, cardboard tubes etc to create musical instruments; drums, recorders, for example. Have a jamming session!

13. Painting and drawing



The Chiltern School

Home Learning - Early Transitions

Give your child lots of opportunities to draw and paint. This is not only fun, but also can help to develop eye-hand coordination and control. Let them experiment with lots of different materials – paint brushes with a range of widths, pencils, crayons, chalks and finger paint. You could try playing music when they paint and draw as this can help to create a relaxing environment.

14. Sensory play – exploring sensory materials in trays or in bags



15. Tuff Trays- exploring different sensory ideas through creativity

Engage your child with different activities in tuff trays or large boxes; small world play, water play, sand, messy play. Some examples of fun activities are below:



The Chiltern School

Home Learning - Early Transitions



16. Intensive Interaction- Intensive interaction is an approach for teaching communication skills to children and adults who have autism, severe learning difficulties and profound and multiple learning difficulties who are still at early stages of development. The approach focuses on teaching the Fundamentals of Communication – the communication concepts and performances that precede speech development, though it may include many people who have some speech and language development.

Enjoying being with another person , developing the ability to attend to that person , concentration and attention span, learning to do sequences of activity with another person, taking turns in exchanges of behaviour, sharing personal space, using and understanding eye contact, using and understanding facial expressions, using and understanding physical contacts, using and understanding other non-verbal communications vocalising and using vocalisations meaningfully, learning to regulate and control arousal levels, emotional development and associated and well-being outcomes.

17. What's In the Box?

Fill a box with a variety of engaging toys/foods/sensory objects. Sing (to the tune of first part of This Old Man):

The Chiltern School

Home Learning - Early Transitions

Tap Tap Tap

What's in the Box?

Childs name, child's name

What's in the box?

Allow the child to explore the box and choose a toy to play with.

Encourage the child to use any communication tools they have in place (PECS, colourful semantics, communication books, verbal language etc) in order to choose the item.

After a few minutes, return item to the box and say 'my turn', sing the song again exchanging name for your own. This will teach turn taking and waiting skills as well as communication skills.