Junior Infant Activities

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Memory games** (e.g. stop the clock with one letter of the alphabet and come up with words beginning with a specific letter under certain headings such as boy name; girl name; food; something you find in the house etc.) | **Cutting and sticking activities**  Draw a picture of family members and cut and paste onto a different sheet to practice cutting skills. | **Outdoors / physical activity**  There are endless opportunities for physical activity. Even if children are playing on their own or in very small groups, there are many fun ways of keeping active:   * Hopscotch * Skipping * Hula-hoops * Obstacle courses * Treasure hunts | <https://www.starfall.com/h/>  Click on ‘Kindergarten’. Click on ‘ABCs’. Choose any of the letters we have covered in phonics so far and complete the interactive activities. \*\* | Make models\letters\numbers with playdough. |
| **Make your own play dough**   * 8 tbsp plain flour * 2 tbsp table salt * 60ml warm water * food colouring * 1 tbsp vegetable oil   Mix all ingredients together. Knead on a floured surface and store in an airtight container. | **Shape Hunt**  A “shape hunt” in the home / garden (shape and space strand in primary maths curriculum). Children identify and classify as many items as possible. |
| **Maths - Distance**  Children can incorporate distance into football / hurling drills. How far do they think (estimate) they can throw/kick a ball? Count how many steps to obtain an answer. | Do simple adding and take away sums 1-10 | \*\***Letter formation** – Revise writing the lower case letters we have covered so far. (We will cover capitals at a later date). Draw the letters in sand/rice. Make the letters out of play dough. | **Number formation** – practice writing numbers 1-10. Draw the numbers in sand or rice. | **Dictation**\*\*  Call out any of the phonics sounds we have done so far. Children write the letter they hear.  Word Dictation \*  Choose 5 words from the list. Call them out slowly, saying each sound carefully. Children write the word they hear. |
|  |  | **Reading**   * Read books and stories as much as you can. * Discuss the characters, setting, plot, illustrations/pictures * Talk about alternative endings. What if…? * Spot tricky words * Spot letters, double letters, words from a particular word family. * Draw a picture of your favourite character, the setting, a dramatic moment * Ask your child questions about the plot, characters and setting. How did the character feel when…? * Non-fiction books – research the topic more online. Look up pictures and facts. * Read words from the word list below using phonic sounds to decode.\* | | |
| Helpful online sites  <https://www.twinkl.ie/> Created by teachers, ideal for home education, it has lots of appealing games, stories, worksheets etc. It is offering a free month’s subscription (enter offer code: IRLTWINKLHELPS). | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **\*CVC Word List for Reading & Dictation**  sat, bin, mat, rot, run, hat, leg, rock, bat, peg, got, hot, | **\*\*Phonics sounds we have covered so far**  t, a, s, m, i, h, c, k, o, p, l, e, g, r, u, n, b |

Tips: Infants learn through repetition of activities. They also need lots of guidance and demonstration. Repeating the same activity on different days will enable them to acquire the new skills and give them the opportunity to succeed. Only spend 10-20 minutes on each activity as concentration will begin to lapse. Move to a new activity frequently. In school, we start with more formal academic learning in the mornings such as phonics or reading and do more play based learning in the afternoon. The grid above contains suggestions for activities. Please feel free to continue to use suggestions and activities from previous weeks. There is no pressure to complete everything. Work at your child’s individual pace and level.