



Activity ideas to support Learning at Home 2-5 year olds

Early Years Service, Children's Services

Buckinghamshire Council

MAKING MUSIC

- Just let children explore the sounds with wooden, metal and plastic spoons
- Can they follow a rhythm that you tap out or the beat of a song
- *Join in or show them clips from Thursday evening claps for keyworkers*



SORTING

Let your child sort out e.g. a bowl of fruit or vegetables, collection of tins or even different dried pasta for the older ones. Watch and see how they do this, then discuss – do they choose the same type or colour, whether they like them or not!

Now work together on sorting fruit and veg by weight – no scales needed, just pick them up. Try adding descriptions depending on the age of your child:

- Heavy/light
- Light/heavier/heaviest
- Line them up in weight order



LEARNING TO POUR

Use a small bottle or jug, partly full of water and several cups- place on a tray so spills are easy to clean up! You could swap water for dried pasta or lentils. Try the water at bath time or in the garden. Add objects like different sized spoons and containers. Remember children will need close supervision here.



Collect a few of these everyday objects from your kitchen



COUNTING THE CUTLERY

For younger children you could just name knife, fork and spoon. Explore how when you look at your reflection in the spoon it changes.

If there were two people for dinner, can they count out the cutlery needed? What if there were four? Maybe, set places for each of your family/soft toys or use. *(This could be a chance to talk about friends and family that cannot currently visit)*



FOLDING

Find a tea towel or towel, even a bed sheet for cooperative play with the older ones. Babies will just enjoy playing peek a boo with a tea towel.

Fold it in half....discuss the long and short edges and corners. Then fold in half again, carefully lining up the edges. Great for careful physical hand control. Maybe let your children fold the washing when it's dry!

Information for Parents and Carers

Top Tips

If it is safe, involve your children with some of the cooking preparation

- Counting and transferring spoonfuls of flour or sugar into a bowl
- Stirring a cold mixture
- Kneading bread or making chapattis with you

Talk about what you are doing e.g. *pouring, stirring, mixing, whisking*. Name the utensils that you are using. You can also explain about safety e.g. hot.

Create your own pretend cooker.



Physical Development

You might notice that your child can:

- Hold a small jug and pour their own drink.
- Hold a chunky crayon, pencil, pen or paint brush (or wooden spoon) and make lines (try in flour too)
- Hold a spoon to pick up food and put it into their mouth to feed themselves.
- Drink from a cup with no lid and not spill drink as they put the cup to their mouth.

Find out More.....

[Hungry Little Minds – Simple fun, activities for kids aged 0 – 5](#)

[Small Talk - ideas for Parents](#)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/games/embed/my-world-kitchen->

(watch and maybe try some ideas together)

[What to expect when – Developmental Guide for Parents](#)

Communication: Speaking

You might notice that your child can:

- Talk with you about lots of different things – what they are doing, what they like or what I have done.
- Use objects and gestures to help them explain what they mean

Mathematics

You might notice that your child can:

Number

- Give you the right number of objects from a collection when you say “please give me one”, “please give me two”.
- Say some number names in order.
- Use words like “more” and “a lot” to describe amounts of objects.

Shape, space and measure

- Point to shapes and patterns in pictures and clothes.
- Sort a collection of objects so that ones that are the same shape or size are altogether.
- Use words such as “big” and “little” to describe objects