

Dear Parents

While we are closed, we hope to keep strong links to the children and their families any way we can – email, call, facetime, even waving from the viaduct as you go past!

You can call and speak to us on 0208 518 8001 option 2 for the baby room, option 3 for the Ants room.

Please reach out to your child's room directly to email or facetime –

Baby room – inceywinceysbabies@icloud.com

Ants room – inceywinceysants@icloud.com

Preschool – inceywinceyspreschool@outlook.com

We will be uploading videos and photos on Tapestry and welcome you to do the same!

We are also putting together worksheets and colouring pages for each child from their key person, photos and letters and anything to lift spirits! These will be sent out in the coming days.

In the meantime, I have collected some good websites for ideas for games at home which I hope you'll find useful (and remember, children learn through play so don't worry too much about structured learning as it's far more important during this crisis to help the children feel secure and calm, and enjoy your time together)

Websites

- <https://www.sitters.co.uk/blog/the-15-best-activities-for-children-to-help-them-learn-through-play.aspx>
- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/> - Sign up then navigate to the EYFS selection. They have 100's of downloadable games and activities as well as online stories and it's free for a month for parents. (if you'd like us to print anything off just let us know!)
- <http://www.lovelybooks.co.uk/> - Free games and ideas surrounding books the children likely own. Also links to online story times.
- <https://www.makaton.org/> - They have downloadable books as well as online resources. These are paid but they do have some FREE stay at home signs.
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc> - Stories, games, quizzes, shows and fun for the whole family.
- <https://www.worldbookday.com/> - Online learning, Free audio books and quizzes. Lots of information on reading with your children.
- <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen> – Free audio books for children.

- https://www.tts-group.co.uk/early-years-home-learning-resources/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=wallpost&utm_campaign=earlyyearsresources&utm_content=learningathome – where you can buy Home learning resources delivered to your door. Other shops are available. There is also an activity book with lots of good ideas that can be downloaded for free. https://www.tts-group.co.uk/home+learning+activities.html?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=tweet&utm_campaign=TTSparentpackpost&utm_content=nowlive
- Pinterest. If you don't already use it, it's an unbelievable archive of useful ideas, games and activities. I'd recommend using it to find something new once a week and typing in a specific search, eg sensory play ideas for 1 year olds, or dinosaur game ideas for 3 year olds.

Apps

YouTube Kids, Pinterest, Cbeebies story time, Cbeebies playtime island TinyTap, Alphablocks, hopster and many, many more. We recommend parents and carers try out each app first before letting their children use it.

Although YouTube can be a mine field of misinformation and inappropriate videos, YouTube Kids has some wonderful craft videos, stories, songs and games for you and your children.

Games

Personal, social and emotional development

Looking in the mirror and pulling funny faces, cuddles, looking through photo albums and face timing family members is really important in building self-esteem and self confidence

Communication and language

Giving words for what the child is playing with, commenting and adding vocabulary by one more word, for example if they say blue car, say yes it's a big, blue car.

Using expressions and gestures to make words and phrases clearer to understand, repeating the same phrases daily for consistency and trying to maintain a form of routine as children learn best when they know what is coming next

Not correcting pronunciations but saying it again correctly to model it

Rather than answering all their questions, try asking "what do you think will happen" to encourage their thoughts

Reading familiar books and leaving a pause to encourage them to join in

Asking what they think will happen in a story or during a film

Physical

Under 3s often need to focus on gross motor skills, (moving their whole bodies and shoulders, once these muscles are strengthened, they can move on to fine motor skills that eventually lead to writing)

Try blowing up a balloon and chasing it around the room

Blowing bubbles and having your child pop them with their hands, elbows, nose (also learning to blow is a hugely useful skill so they could try that too, also blowing a balloon along the ground is fun)

Taking clothes out of the washing machine, matching socks, helping with the washing up, tidying toys, washing windows.

Use household items such as buckets and sponges to practise throwing and aim, speaking about themes like faster and slower

Yoga

Giving younger children the chance to explore different textures and objects they don't usually have such as saucepans, scouring pads etc.

Using shoelaces to thread in a colander, using kitchen tongs to pick up buttons, posting money into a piggy bank, practising scissor control,

Making a fort, dressing up in parents' clothes, practising getting dressed and undressed, looking for bugs in the garden, **washing hands!!!**

Play dough 250g plain flour, 50g salt, 140ml water, 1 to 2 tablespoons cooking oil, few drops food colouring (optional)

1. Mix together the flour and salt in a large mixing bowl. Add the water and oil.
2. Knead well until mixture is smooth about 10 mins. You might need to add a bit more flour or water until the consistency is smooth but not sticky.
3. Add food colouring and knead until the colour is fully blended.
4. Store in a plastic bag in the refrigerator until chilled enough to use.

There are alternative options that don't use salt for younger children, and edible/vegan free options too if you look online.

Tiny Mites

In line with the most recent government guidelines Tiny Mites will not be attending Nursery, however they will be opening a **you tube channel for children to see and participate with Tiny Mites classes from home**. If your parents would like to subscribe it's just a small fee of £2.50. Their children can tune into Tiny Mites and join in with their regular teacher. Please will you forward to your parents? Parents please Email us if interested info@tinymitesmusic.com



Zoos

Lots of zoos around the world have opened their webcams for online streaming, which provides a unique opportunity to see some animals without leaving the house! https://www.holidaypirates.com/travel-magazine/13-zoos-that-offer-live-streams-see-giraffes-koalas-pandas-tigers-penguins-more-35765?sc_src=email_1781336&sc_lid=131849624&sc_uid=E9XMkMdAJd&sc_lid=79845&sc_eh=90c96067707bdfbc1&utm_campaign=UK_2020_12_We_newsletter_all_all_20200318&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Read+more

Zoolab

Zoolab has some colouring pages <https://www.zoolabuk.com/resources>

Gardening

Spring is the perfect time to get in the garden and grow something! Your little ones can help pull the weeds, cut back bushes and watch the flowers grow, Amazon are open for orders so cress seeds are always a good idea too.

Reports and Parents Evening

In addition, key people will be writing the children's developmental reports from home and these will be published for you to view on Tapestry by 3rd April.

Obviously, parents evening on 15th April is not going to happen as usual, but we will be arranging telephone discussions week commencing 6th April to discuss progress. We have staff in on different days so they will email you before to arrange a date and time.

If you would like any specific advice on activities or ideas, please get in touch.

And most importantly, we hope you are all healthy and well and stay that way during this period.

Kind regards,

April Rohen