

English

This includes reading, writing, speaking and listening. Activities that may be within 'English' often help social skills, life skills and speech and language - duplicating these activities is absolutely fine. Some activities, alongside those sent home as 'set homework', that will help your child continue their learning are:

Reading stories together

Picture books are amazing to promote the children in using their own language and imagination to create a story by the pictures.

Asking 'Wh' questions

Asking 'who' 'what' 'where' questions are a wonderful way to embed understanding of stories as well as encourage children to use language and improve their inference skills and understanding.

Sequencing stories

Using pictures or key words to sequence the story you have read together, this could be simplified into three - first, next, then events that occurred in the story and could be stretched to as many sections as you feel your child is able.

<u>Creating conversations</u>

Using language in the correct context continually, without pressure for the child to reply, helps the children greatly in understanding language and creating opportunities to use their language skills within the correct context everyday.

Mark making

Mark making is not restricted to letters and numbers, it may be exploring different writing utensils, drawing in the air or on your arms or back with your finger, learning the letter formation rhymes, colouring, finger painting etc. All of these activities promote a love for writing and build upon the muscles needed to write.

Maths

This covers number, shape space and measure and geometry. Some activities, alongside those sent home as 'set homework', that will help your child continue their learning are:

Puzzles

Completing matching puzzles, jigsaws, fitting pieces, are all wonderful activities that promote problem solving, fine motor skills, understanding of shape and movement. Puzzles are a wonderful way to mix play with a lot of areas of learning including language, counting, first and next, turn taking and tracking.

Cutting

Cutting skills activities are a wonderful way to help the children's coordination skills, fine motor skills, problem solving and slowing down. Again this activity can be matched with many other skills such as counting, colour, language and shape.

Counting

Alongside the basic counting skills, and those skills set in the weekly homework, counting activities can be created through everyday activities and household objects. This may be counting their toys as they play, the pieces of their snack or food, the objects they see on a walk etc. This may also include finding numerals in and out of order, for example finding number 4 on a door number, the number 1 on a street sign etc. This could then be linked to one more or one less.

Life Skills

This may include emotions, sensory, regulating, building independence, turn taking, increasing attention and social skills.

Regulating

This could be exploring sensory calming videos (links attached), exploring sensory items and toys such as bubbles, squishy toys, fidgets, squeezing pillows or gel timers. Exploring regulation may also be exploring calming activities and identifying which activity or technique helps your child feel calmer in certain situations. These activities may be having a massage, having a cold drink, movement breaks, breathing exercises, reading a book or having a squish.

Turn taking

There are many different activities that may incorporate turn taking such as puzzles, stacking, building blocks, colouring, mark making, playing with a toy or eating your favourite food! Turn taking is an important part of social skills and promotes the basis for social play.

Emotions

There are many different ways to incorporate the learning around emotions. The basic emotions first taught to the children include happy, sad, angry and scared. These are then built upon and expanded when the children are confident in their understanding, and use of the basic emotions. Activities to build on this understanding may be creating feeling faces with play dough or other sensory items and recreating them yourselves, naming the emotion shown by the child or yourself, drawing the different emotions and creating reasons for their feelings, matching the feeling to the face or watching shows and naming as many emotions shown as you can.

Social skills

Social skills are a vital part of everyday life and are often taught without specific objectives or planned activities; however ASD creates significant barriers for social skills, understanding and interaction. Due to this, social skills need to be taught with a direct and concise approach, predominantly through structured play, stories and activities. To carry on this learning at home children could take part in activities such as; role play activities based on real life social interactions (greeting people, giving compliments, making a friend), my turn your turn conversations, shopping trips, acting out a social scene from a favourite show or film or 'show me' games (show me how you sit nicely, show me how to stand next to a friend, show me how to wait in line).

Topic

Although topic is largely a school-based subject there are games and activities children can take part in at home to support their learning. These include visiting new places, going on nature walks, exploring materials around the house, cooking, watching documentaries, drawing and labelling, looking at old photographs and discussing what you see, reminiscing about previous celebrations and parties and talking about why they happened and any crafting activities.