LITERACY AT HOME

Fun activities you can do at home.

By Paula Preece

Read Different Things

- Read or browse a range of different literature that you may have in your home with your child.
- You could look at magazines, comic books, reference books, non-fiction books, cookery books, instruction manuals as well as children's story books.



Follow a Recipe

· See if your child can follow the instructions in a recipe.

dotty chocolate chip cake

ingredients serves 10

175 g/6 oz soft margarine or spreadable butter, plus extra for greasing 175 g/6 oz caster sugar 3 eggs, beaten 175 g/6 oz plain flour 1 tsp baking powder 2 tbsp cocoa powder 55 g/2 oz white chocolate chips 40 g/1½ oz small coloured sweets, to decorate

icing

175 g/6 oz milk chocolate or plain chocolate, broken into pieces 100 g/3½ oz unsalted butter or margarine 1 tbsp golden syrup

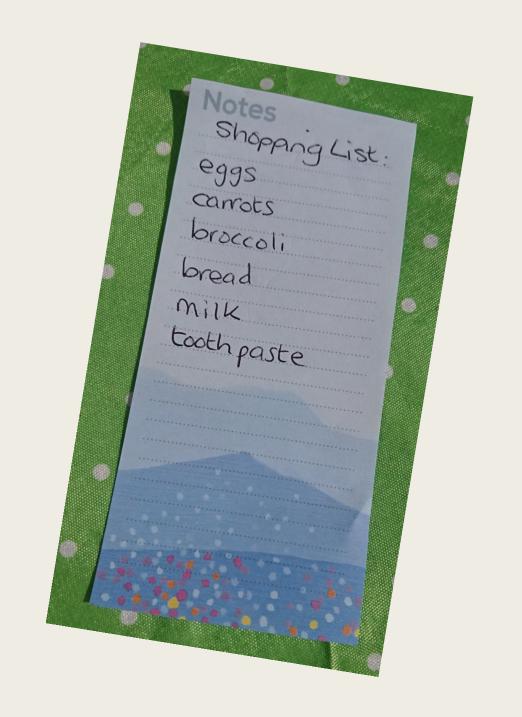
method

- **1** Preheat the oven to 160°C/325°F/Gas Mark 3. Grease a 20-cm/8-inch round cake tin and line the base with baking paper.
- Place the margarine, sugar, eggs, flour, baking powder and cocoa powder in a bowl and beat until just smooth. Stir in the chocolate chips, mixing evenly.
- 3 Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin and spread the top level. Bake in the preheated oven for 40–45 minutes, until risen and firm to the touch. Leave to cool in the tin for 5 minutes, then turn out and finish cooling completely on a wire rack.
- **4** For the icing, place the chocolate, butter and golden syrup in a saucepan over a low heat and stir until just melted and smooth.
- 5 Remove from the heat and leave to cool until it begins to thicken enough to leave a trail when the spoon is lifted. Pour the icing over the top of the cake, allowing it to drizzle down the sides. Arrange the sweets over the top of the cake.



Write Shopping Lists

- You could write a shopping list with your child or ask them to write a list for you.
- You could then do your shopping online together and see if your child can search for the items by typing in the letters or words.



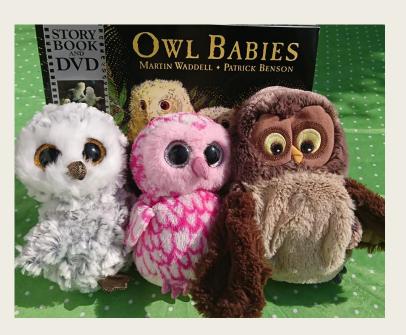
Retell familiar Stories

 You can read a variety of familiar stories to your child.

 You could use cuddly toys or things in your home to retell the story.

 See if your child can remember the story and in the correct order using the toys.







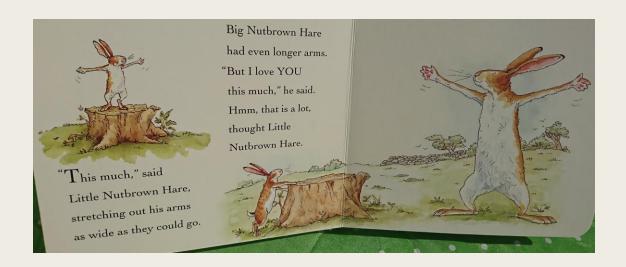
Puppet Stories

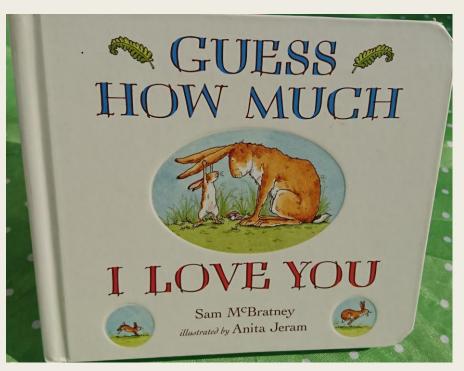
- You could use puppets to tell a story.
- See if your child can recall the story using the puppets.
- If you don't have puppets you could make some from cardboard, toilet roll tubes or lolly sticks.
- Twinkl has some great free printable items too.



Copy the Actions

 You could read a story and try to copy the actions in the book!







Sing Nursery Rhymes & Songs

- Sing familiar nursery rhymes and songs with your child.
- Use props and puppets if you have them.
- Examples shown here include:
 - Jack and Jill
 - · Twinkle Twinkle
 - 5 Little Monkies
 - 1,2,3,4,5 Once I caught a Fish Alive
- You can also make up songs!



Role Play

- Read books and watch films with your child.
- Then role play and re-enact the stories with your child.
- You could use anything you have lying around your home to use as part of your role play if you don't have costumes eg: scarf, hat, blanket and make cardboard props.



Writing Postcards

- Write postcards and draw pictures with your child.
- Send them to family.
- Twinkl has some great resources and you can print blank post card templates and stamps.
- You could also make your own!



Letters of the Alphabet

- Make letters of the alphabet from sticks and materials you can find outside.
- You could also find objects around your home that begin with the letters A-Z (see Emma's great video of things she found around her home!)





Lego Alphabet

- You could also challenge your child to try to make Lego letters of the alphabet.
- See if they can make the whole alphabet!



Sensory Letters

- Create some sensory or messy play activities at home, I have used shaving foam and rice on paper plates.
- · You could then draw letters or shapes in the messy play.







Have Fun!!!