

Over the weekend Storm Éowyn caused damage to both the Schools Estate and the electricity network to varying degrees across Northern Ireland. Some schools have had to remain closed due to maintenance issues or a lack of electricity supply.

When there is no electricity and the schools are closed, supporting children's learning at home can be a challenge. While safety is a top priority during a power outage, using fun activities can turn what could be a stressful experience into an opportunity for learning, creativity and bonding.

Children thrive when there is a plan for the day or a daily schedule. It helps them to feel safe and secure. It is also very important that there is a balance between online learning, written and practical activities, outdoor learning and free time.

This guide has been prepared to support parents and carers with their child's learning and includes a range of links to online resources and activities. For those homes which do not yet have electricity restored, a range of activities which do not require internet access have also been provided.

Parents are asked to encourage their primary aged child to use their C2K username and password in order to access **C2K** software from home. It would be helpful to remind children of the **SMART** rules when using the internet.



### Learning activities and games for pre-school children

#### Learning suggestions which do not require electricity

- Outdoor physical activities, such as, a winter walk to look at wildlife or storm damage.
- Ideas to promote fine motor skills include scissor activities with dough, newspaper, old magazines and card. Thread pasta onto a shoelace or use tweezers or tongs to pick up pasta.
- Don't forget the gross motor skills. Apart from the normal running and outdoor play, indoor activities could include: encouraging your child to bear walk, walk forwards, backwards, sideways, small steps then giant steps, fast & slow steps and not forgetting to encourage using alternate feet on the stairs while counting.
- Make models from junk materials, Duplo or Lego.
- Cut and stick activities, paint and draw.
- Play games e.g. snap
- Use the Department of Education Getting Ready to Learn ideas, for example:
  - Sock Challenge: How many rolled up socks can you throw in a bucket or target?
  - **Hide'n'Seek Family fun for everyone!** Hide indoors or outdoors... Take turns to count and hide around the house.
  - Listening and Looking Walks Give the children a list of things to listen out for, birds, wind, dogs, cars etc. When you come back, get them to draw what they heard.
  - **Magic Dens** Use blankets, towels, sheets, chairs and a sprinkle of imagination to create a magical hideaway!
  - **Brilliant Ball Skills** Throw and catch ball. How many times can you bounce the ball? Can you throw the ball into a bucket? Or try catching a balloon?
  - **Obstacles** Set up mini obstacle courses at home to encourage children to move in different ways using different body parts
    - Playdough bag/box Suggested contents: Recipe card so children can easily make it with some help (see recipe); shape cutters egg cups, plastic glasses and natural materials around the home and garden; range of tools for shaping and creating marks, using cooking utensils; special ingredients e.g. rice, glitter, spices and herbs.

#### Recipe for playdough

2 cups of plain flour

2 tablespoons of vegetable oil

½ cup of salt

2 tablespoons of cream of tartar

1 cup of water and food colouring, if desired

#### Additional ideas taken from Department of Education Getting Ready to Learn

Play-Doh     250g Plain flour	2. Jigsaws	3. Spot the Difference	4. Treasure Hunt	5. Gloop
250g Plain Tlour     50g Salt     140ml Water (warm)     1-2 tbsp veg. oil     Food colouring Mix dry ingredients. Add water oil, and food colouring . Knead until smooth. Keep in fridge in plastic bag.	Make your own jigsaw out of old pictures/photos. Glue onto card & cut into large jigsaw style pieces.	Get your child to close thier eyes Change 1 thing—take off a sock, put your jumper back to front etc, - get them to 'spot the difference!' Vary by using the whole room & props!	Draw clues on paper and hide the clues around the house for child to follow to the prize / treat.	Cornflour     Food colouring     Mix 2pts cornflour, 1pt water.     Add food colouring.     Child can explore the gloop —     how it feels & moves. Is it a     solid or liquid?
6 . What If?	7. Number Time	8 . Bubbles	9. Stone Stories	10. Mini-City
Get your child to think creatively by playing the WHAT IF game. WHAT IF -  Our house was made of cheese,? You could fly? You are an Eskimo? Cats are as big as elephants?	Cut eggs from paper & write numbers (1-5) on eggs. Kids crack them by punching/ cutting the correct number. Make it more difficult by adding bigger numbers.	Straws     Washing Up liquid 50ml     300 ml water (add slowly) Mix gently and rest for a while. Put straw into suds & blow. Make different homemade wands,- paperclips, biscuit cutters and pip cleaners.	Add stickers or drawings to stones/blocks/lids. Help your child make stories using the stones/blocks. Make a little bag to keep the stones safe and decorate	Build a miniature city with boxes, sticks & twigs, pasta, pulses and beans . You can even made a model of your own street! OR make a fairy play using old necklaces/beads/glitter and play dough. Put wings on dolls.
11 . Hairdressers	12 . Story Time	13 . Building Blocks	14. Water Play	15 . Hunts
Toilet Roll Tubes     Scissors     Draw faces on a toilet roll tube     use scissors to create their     own hairstyles. You can even     make hair using wool, string,     tissue paper!	Spot people passing & make up stories.  Lady has a monkey in her pram just escaped from zoo.  What mischief has it caused!  Where did it get his bananas?	Use Lego/Duplo/Blocks  Help them measure toys — how many pieces long, get them to guess. Language— tall , short, wide , longer, bigger, shorter etc	Toys/Containers/Jugs Whisk Washing Up liquid Fill sink/bowl with water, jugs and containers. A whisk and washing up liquid will make great bubbles!	Hide Toys Around the House and go on a hunt together.  Give child clues—warm if close, to the treasure; cold if moving away.
16. Sharks!	17 . Camping Fun	18 . Dance Time	19 . Let's Pretend	20. Play Shops
Line cushions up & get child to walk along them - it will challenge their balance.  Move pillows and play sharks— child has to get across room without being eaten!	Go camping have an indoor picnic, spread out rug.  Later use rug to make tent, add torches, blankets/ cushions, favourite toys & books.	Play action songs to the children such as Hokey Pokey, Head and Shoulders, I'm a Little Teapot, Shake your Sillies Out. Lots more examples can be found online.	Encourage pretend /dramatic play.  Play 'Post Office' (junk mail, boxes, large bag for letter and box for post box) OR have a birthday party for toys/pets.	Play 'Pet Shop' Big cage under table for big animals., boxes for small animals. Set up shop with real food /toys etc. A restaurant with cups & plates, tea towels, napkins etc

#### Pre-school online learning

There is a range of online learning resources for pre-school children in the links below. Parents can find further support and advice about play and digital technology <u>here</u>.

Games for toddlers and preschoolers - CBeebies - BBC

Creative Play for Toddlers and Preschoolers - CBeebies - BBC

CBeebies Stories - CBeebies - BBC

Play For Busy Parents - PlayBoard NI

Copy of Play for busy parents

Play Activities - PlayBoard NI

Nursery • Forest Schools in Northern Ireland

#### Ideas from Northern Ireland Forest Schools Association



#### **Bark Rubbing**

Create a bark rubbing and be a bark artist. Take a few sheets of paper and your crayons to the woods or your local park, and get creative. Choose an interesting tree big, old, knobbly ones are perfect You might need a grown-up or friend to help you keep the paper still while you make your rubbing Find other trees and layer up different colours and patterns. Frame your picture with twigs



#### **Bird Hunt**

Look out for these birds next time you're out and about. How many different types of birds can you spot? Some might be on the ground, others might be in the trees, and some might even be flying through the air! Tempt birds to visit your garden by leaving out seeds, mealworms and fruit Some birds are really tiny, so you'll need to keep your eyes peeled! Do you have a favourite bird?



#### **Cookie Cutter Bird Feeders**

Make this super easy feeder for your garden birds. This is simple and fun. All you need is lard, bird seed and a cookie cutter or two. Easy peasy! Making these feeders is messy fun, so be prepared to get your hands dirty! This is a super activity for little (and big!) Nature Detectives Hang your feeders where you can see them and wait for your feathered friends to tuck in to



#### **Explore Nature with Playdough**

This sensory activity is great fun for young children. Go on a walk and look for natural objects with interesting shapes and textures. At home, set out your finds and some playdough then get stuck in. Press pine cones and leaves into the playdough to make patterns and impressions. Try chopping and rolling with sticks. 'Plant' sticks into the playdough to create a mini forest. Make funny faces with leaves and seeds. There are so many possibilities with this activity let your little one experiment and see where it leads! Grown-ups: please keep a close eye on your child when doing this activity, and don't let them explore any items with their mouth.



#### **Leaf Sensory Box**

Make a sensory box using leaves and toys. Add your autumn items and favourite toys to a shoebox, and get hunting! This is a fantastic sensory activity for tiny Nature Detectives Describe the sounds the leaves make in the box rustle, crunch, shush! Choose lots of different toys balls and wooden figures are great



#### **Colour Bingo**

Use this spotter sheet to help you hunt out all the colours in nature. Grab your best detecting kit – it's time to find these colours! How many will you spot? Look for colours in flowers, leaves and berries Can you find them all in the woods? What's your favourite colour? Once you've ticked off all the colours, try looking for others. You could even make a picture using the colours you spot.

#### Learning activities and games for primary school aged children

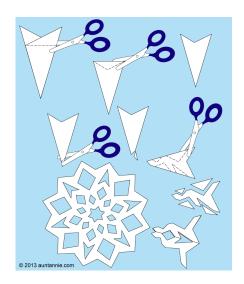
#### Foundation Stage

#### Learning suggestions which do not require electricity

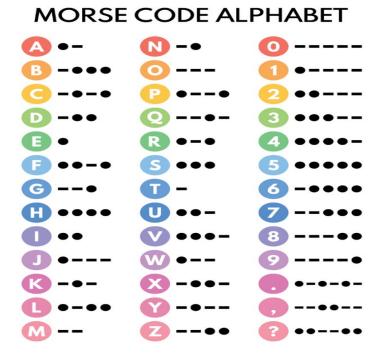
- Create a routine for the day using pictures/drawings/words.
- Share a book together practice their reading including from the child's own story books. Talk about the characters and draw picture of them.
- Do some physical activities go out into your garden and enjoy the fresh air- run, jump, skip, kick a ball, play tennis up against a wall.
- Take a walk and look at the wildlife, hedgerows and keep track of the changes in nature and record findings in photos and drawings.
- Gardening activities planting and digging.
- Art paint, draw or make a model from junk materials.
- Learn songs, poems, or nursery rhymes to improve memory and comprehension.
- Make musical instruments out of items in your house such as saucepans or lids.
   Make a band and play songs keeping a steady beat.
- Make an indoor tent or fort for imaginative play and have an indoor picnic.
- Play the floor is lava/ocean/quicksand or another imagination-based game. Making an obstacle course in your home can help the kids work out the excess energy from being stuck inside.
- Hide some treasure and draw a treasure map to help someone find it.
- Play 'I Spy' to reinforce initial letter sounds.
- Going to the Market: One person starts by saying, "I'm going to the market to get a \_\_\_\_\_". They can fill in with any word, but the next person who goes must state what the player before gets plus what they get. Use the alphabet letters for inspiration or choose a theme for the objects.
- Money Close eyes and guess the coin by feeling or count all the loose change you
  can find. Make pictures with coins and add up the value of the picture.
- Card games use a deck of playing cards to play snap, identify numbers, guess if the next card is higher or lower or use for simple addition of two cards.

# Key Stage 1 & 2

- Keep a diary/journal.
- Play board games such as dominoes, snakes and ladders, monopoly, Trivial Pursuit, Uno.
- Read a book and draw a picture to show where the story is set, draw the characters, summarise the story in 100 words.
- Practise your musical instrument e.g. recorder, piano, violin flute etc.
- Dance or enjoy some yoga stretches to learn to focus and manage stress.
- Art paint, draw or make a model from junk materials.
- Make a jar of thanks decorate an empty jar and write things you are thankful for on small pieces of paper. A good way to focus on the positive during challenging situations.
- Board Game Creation design your own board game, complete with rules and pieces to encourage creativity, instructional writing and problem solving.
- **Design Challenge** set a prompt, such as designing a new product or redesigning an existing one, and challenge players to come up with the best solution.
- Pictionary draw a word or phrase for others to guess, without using any letters or words.
- Practice crafts, such as sewing, sculpting, or drawing, to learn new skills and techniques.
- Play tic-tac-toe
- Make paper snowflakes



• Learn morse code (see poster below) and send messages to each other or create your own code.



• Play card games such as Uno or Phase 10 or use a deck of cards to play any of the games below to develop your child's math's skills.

#### **Card games That Promote Addition**

#### Flip and Add or Subtract One

This game is simple and very good for all ages of children. Take out the face cards, then put the deck on the table facing down. Flip the card on the top. If it's red, add one, if it's black, subtract one. If your child gets the correct answer, they keep the card. You can adapt this card game to your child's age. For instance, they could add or subtract any number, or they could multiply and divide.

#### **Fraction Card Game**

You can either remove the face cards or give them a value. Your child deals two numerators and two denominators, making two fractions. They have to decide which is the bigger fraction. If they're correct, they keep all four cards.

#### Race to 100

Place the deck face down in the centre of all players. Each player starts with a score of 0. Flip a card over and add its value to your running total. The first player to reach 100 without going over wins!

#### Go Fish...For 10!

This is just like Go Fish, but you are fishing for pairs that add up to 10. Have them ask: "I have a 2. Do you have an 8 to make 10?" Change aces to 1 for this game.

#### Card games that promote fractions, rounding, and more challenging skills

#### **Round to the Nearest 10**

Each player is dealt 2 cards. The players find the sum of their cards, then round their sum to the nearest 10. The person who rounds to the largest multiple of 10 wins the cards.

#### Gain or Loss

Each player starts with 15 points. Values are assigned to face cards. Cards are placed in the centre of all the players. The first player flips a card over. If the card is black, they add it to their total. If it's red, they subtract it. Highest point total when all the cards are gone wins!

#### **Fraction War**

This game is just like war, except each player turns over 2 cards. Then the players make the largest fraction they can with their 2 cards, deciding what should be the numerator and denominator. The player with the largest fraction wins the cards.

#### Place Value War

It's war! But with 3 cards and a place value twist. Flip over 3 cards. Each player creates the largest number they can. Players compare numbers, and the largest number wins.

#### "Mathy" I Spy

Lay cards in a grid pattern (fewer cards for younger children, more cards for older children). Then play I Spy! Clues may be: I spy a number that is less than 4. I spy a number that is a factor of 28. Make the clues up based on the age and ability of your child.

#### **Hit The Target**

Lay five cards in the centre of all players (facing up). Flip over another card, which is the target number. Players then create an equation in which they can add, subtract, multiply or divide their 5 numbers to hit the target number. Try to use all five cards, but you must use at least 2 cards. The winner takes the cards in the equation, plus the target number. (Paper and writing utensils can be helpful with this game!)

# 100+ INDOOR ACTIVITIES

MAKE PAPER ARPLANES SALT PAINTING MAKE SUNCATCHERS MAKE SALT DOUGH MAKE SPONGE STAMPS MAKE A CEREAL BOX AQUAIRIUM MAKE SCRATCH ART MAKE YOUR OWN BOOKMARKS PAINT PET ROCKS MAKE RECYCLED CRAYONS MAKE PAPER BOATS FINGER PAINT MAKE A BIRD FEEDER MAKE PAPER BAG PUPPETS MAKE HANDPRINT ART MAKE A SCRAPBOOK DECORATE T-SHRTS MAKE A THANKFUL JAR PAINT LEAVES MAKE A TIME CAPSULE MAKE BUTTON ART DAINT WITH WATERCOLORS COLOR IN A COLORING BOOK MAKE PAPER CRAFTS BUILD A CARDBOARD CASTLE MAKE TISSUE BOX MONSTERS MAKE A TOLET PAPER ROLL BUTTERFLY STAMP WITH CELERY MAKE CHALK ICE MAKE PUFFY SIDEWALK PAINT DRAW A SELF PORTRAIT USE RUBBER STAMPS DO SCRAPE PAINTING PAINT A RECYCLED JAR MAKE SUPERHERO COSTUMES

MAKE PLAYDOUGH MAKE SLIME MAKE PLAY MUD MAKE RAINBOW RICE MAKE FAKE SNOW MAKE A SENSORY BIN MAKE A SENSORY BAG **BUILD A FORT** HAVE A PILLOW FIGHT WRITE A STORY MAKE ICE CREAM IN A BAG MAKE GUMMY BEARS MAKE FRUIT ROLL-UPS HAVE A MOVIE DAY PUT ON A FASHION SHOW BAKE CUPCAKES OR MUFFINS DO YOGA BUILD AN OBSTACLE COURSE MAKE DINNER TOGETHER PLAY WITH MAGNETIC TILES BUILD SOMETHING WITH LEGO USE DOT MARKERS BUILD A STACK OF CARDS PUT ON A PUPPET SHOW MAKE A TREASURE HUNT INDOOR BOWLING LEARN TO DRAW PUT ON A PLAY MAKE INDOOR HOPSCOTCH DO A FAMILY CHORE TOGETHER HAVE A DANCE DARTY HAVE A TEA PARTY PLAY WITH WATER IN A BIN SET UP A PLAY STORE MAKE A SOCK TOSS GAME

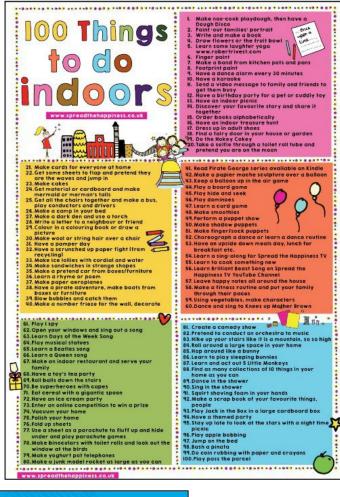
MAKE PERLER BEAD ART

WRITE IN A JOURNAL THEBESTIDEASFORKIDS.COM

PLAY WOULD YOU RATHER PLAY I SPY PLAY SIMON SAYS PLAY BOARD GAMES PLAY HIDE AND SEEK INDOOR SCAVENGER HUNT PLAY CARD GAMES DO A PUZZLE PLAY CHARADES BUILD YOUR OWN GAME PLAY FREEZE DANCE PLAY HOT POTATO PLAY MARGLES KEEP THE BALLOON UP PLAY DOMINOES PLAY HANGMAN PLAY TIC-TAC-TOE

#### **FDUCATIONAL**

READ BOOKS DO A SCIENCE PROJECT LEARN ORIGAM LEARN ABOUT A NEW ANIMAL LEARN A NEW CARD GAME LEARN TO SEW LEARN TO KNIT DO BRAIN TEASERS LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE LEARN ABOUT A COUNTRY





# 30 Days of LEGO Play

Sa Car			10		50	
Follow the instructions for each			Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
day. The only rule is to have fun and use your imagination!			You were hired by an amusement park to create a new roller coaster.	NASA needs you to build a new rocket.	Your parents want to build a new home and they want you to build it.	Hollywood hires you to build a movie set for a new Star Wars movie.
Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11
You enter a contest to build the world's tallest tower. Will you win?	You are stuck on Mars and need to build a new ship to get home.	Ford hires you to create the toughest pick up truck in the world.	You and 4 friends are stranded on an island. Build a boat to find a way home.		You and your friends decide to build a tree house.	Prince Charming hires you to build a castle for him & Cinderella.
Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	Day 15	Day 16	Day 17	Day 18
Dr. Who hires you to build a new TARDIS.	You are asked by the President to build a new monument to George Washington.	Mr. Hilton hires you to build a new hotel.	There is a circus in town. Build a place for the performance.	Help your fellow pioneers build a wagon to make it across the country.	Build the fastest car around and join the big car race.	Do you wanna build a snowman? Get in the winter mood and build a snow scene.
Day 19	Day 20	Day 21	Day 22	Day 23	Day 24	Day 25
other.	up to you to make a pizza for all the guests.	You are hired to build a brand new hospital.	The fence is broke and the dog keeps escaping. Build one he can't get out of.	You are now in medieval times. You are commis- sioned to build a jousting arena.	The local bank keeps getting robbed. Build a safe no one can crack.	Design and build your dream bedroom.
Day 26	Day 27	Day 28	Day 29	Day 30	50 (SEC)	What was
You are elected ruler. Build a flag for your land.	Aliens are invading and you need to build a war robot to defeat them.	The aliens have taken over. They are impressed by your robot. They want you build one for them.	You are hired to build a house entirely out of yellow Legos.	There is blizzard. You will need to build a snowmobile		your favorite day?

# **Primary - online learning suggestions**

Google Classrooms (C2K MySchool username and password required) Use the new classroom tab to set tasks.

**Microsoft 365** (C2K MySchool username and password required)

**Just2Easy** (C2K MySchool username and password required) Children can use this learning platform with lots of creativity tools, apps and games for maths, English and ICT.

**Newsdesk** (C2K MySchool username and password required)

Newsdesk is a very useful tool for schools to develop children's fluency in reading, comprehension and writing skills.

**SeeSaw** can be used by teachers to engage with children and parents and to set and share work. Schools need to have an account with SeeSaw already.

**Explain Everything -** is an interactive app which can be used to create presentations, lessons and videos using drawing tools to illustrate or write a concept.

Oxford Owl Free ebooks to support children's learning at home

NI Libraries The website offers free eBooks and eMagazines.

**ICT games** are on-screen games for literacy and numeracy.

BBC Bitesize primary have a range of activities across all areas of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

**BBC Supermovers** active learning programme for children in KS1 and KS2.

Natural History Museum Free resources for the World Around Us programme.

MINECRAFT CCEA resource using Minecraft to explore the Vikings.

You Tube PE Skill school Progressive and age/stage relevant Primary PE Challenges and most can be done at home with few resources.

<u>Go noodle</u> free resources with movement and mindfulness videos created by child development experts

<u>Youtube art for kids</u> Weekly ideas to ensure progression and appreciation of primary school art.

