

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

earlybird

educare@work



Red Group

Week 1



For families with children 4 - 5 years old
stuck at home during the COVID-19 lockdown.

About this Guide

This guide has been lovingly put together by teachers in the Earlybird network.

It is intended to provide **easy-to-implement activity ideas** in order to facilitate ongoing learning and development for children missing out on having these opportunities due to the mandated school-closure period.

We aim to release new guides every Friday on a weekly basis during the school-closure period.

This guide includes two activities for each day of the week for your 3 - 4 year old:

A HANDS-ON STEM ACTIVITY - aimed at encouraging curiosity, building, experimentation, reasoning and foundational mathematical skills.

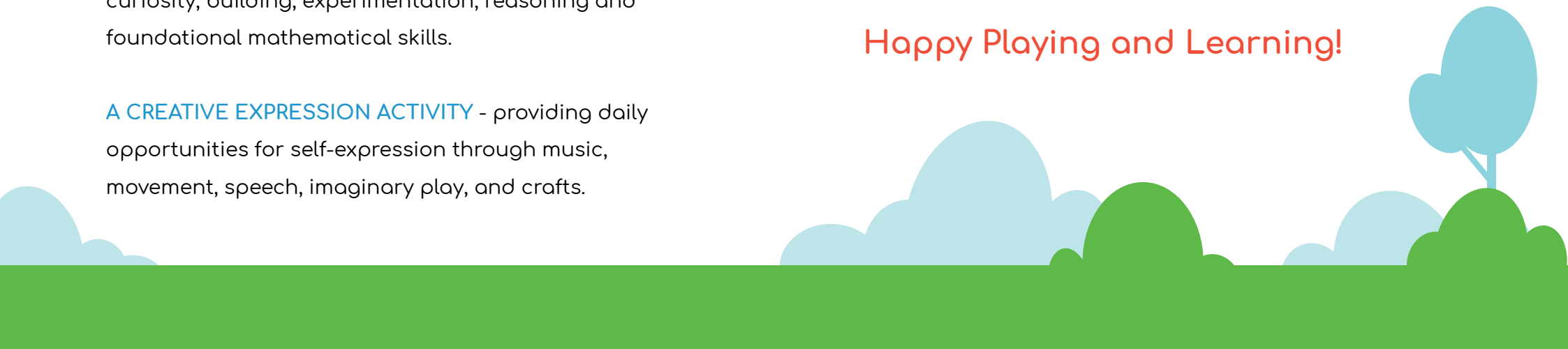
A CREATIVE EXPRESSION ACTIVITY - providing daily opportunities for self-expression through music, movement, speech, imaginary play, and crafts.

These more-or-less follow the three teacher-led activity periods during our daily routine for this age group. Each activity is aimed at supporting your child's progress in a particular "Objective for Development and Learning" or "ODL".

In addition to these hands-on STEM and creative expression activities, we recommend you read a story to your child every day and take them outside for some movement activities every day.

Activities should not take longer than **30-minutes to prep** and **30-minutes to implement** using items commonly found at home, in the grocery store or at a stationary shop.

Happy Playing and Learning!





Hands-on STEM

Name:	Pattern Sorting
ODL:	Classification
In brief:	You can create as many different patterned paper discs as your creativity allows and have your child sort them according to different attributes (shapes, colour, linear, circular etc.)



Creative Expression

Name:	Energy Cube
ODL:	Vocabulary Development
In brief:	A simple google search for a cube net will provide with the template you need to make a cardboard cube. You can create dozens of fun games by labeling each side of the cube with different kinds of expression challenges for your child.

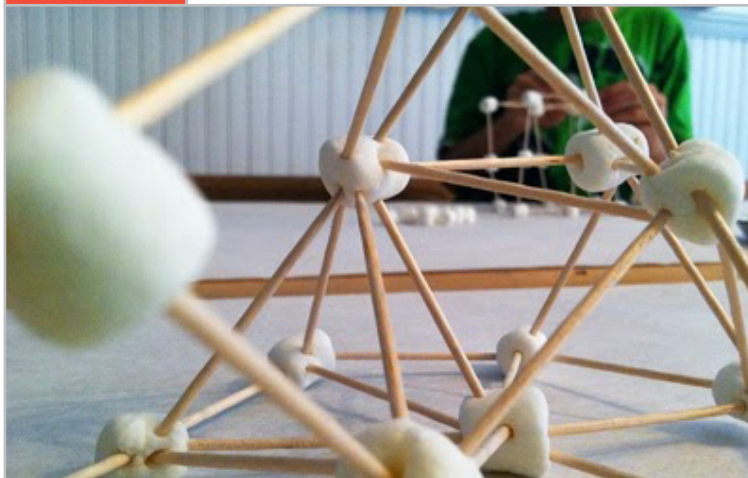


Monday



Hands-on STEM

Name:	3D Structures
ODL:	Shape recognition/manipulation
In brief:	Have your child connect wooden sticks using prestick to see how many different kinds of 3D structures they can create. Ask them what they notice about the stability of their different structures.



Creative Expression

Name:	Paper Bag Puppets
ODL:	Coherent Expression
In brief:	Work with your child to decorate upside-down paper-bags and then encourage them to name each of their paper-bag-puppet characters and come up with different voices and back-stories for them before putting on a show for the family.



Tuesday



Hands-on STEM

Name:	Roll and Tally
ODL:	Quantity tracking
In brief:	Create a table for your child with the first row headed with numbers 1-6. Have him/her roll a dice and make a tally mark in the relevant column to indicate which number the dice lands on every time he/she rolls it.



Creative Expression

Name:	Leaf Art
ODL:	Shape recognition/manipulation
In brief:	Have your child collect as many fallen leaves as they can and then tape them to a white page and paint over them. Once the paint has dried, removed the taped leaves to reveal their silhouettes left behind.

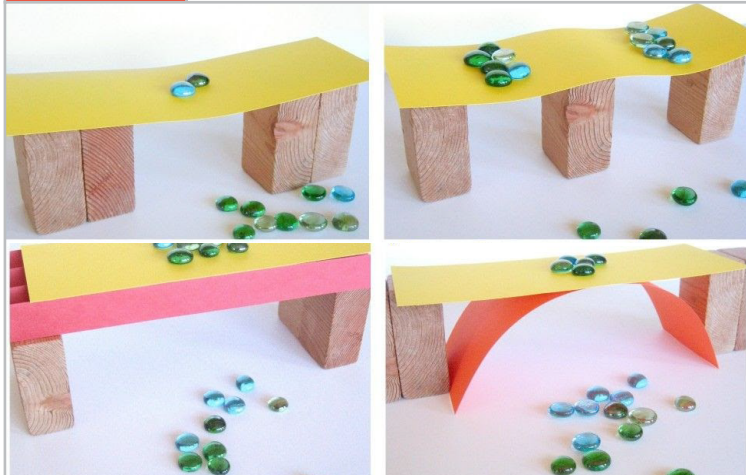


Wednesday



Hands-on STEM

Name:	Building Bridges
ODL:	Shape recognition/manipulation
In brief:	Use wooden blocks and cardboard to work with your child to build and test four different possible bridge-structures. Can you come up with more versions beyond the ones pictured below?



Creative Expression

Name:	Threading Letters
ODL:	Shape recognition/manipulation
In brief:	Collect as many used boxes as possible before embarking on an exciting construction project with your child. Your only limit is your imagination!



Thursday



Hands-on STEM

Name:	Hidden Cards
ODL:	Numeral recognition
In brief:	Hide number cards from a standard deck of playing cards in a container filled with rice or sand. Place pages with numerals on them next to the container and ask your child to hunt for the hidden cards and place them on the relevant numeral.



Creative Expression

Name:	Mini basketball court
ODL:	Hand-eye coordination
In brief:	Use boxes, tennis balls and a wire ring to create a mini-basketball court at home. Let your child practice their hoop-shooting abilities (both right- and left-handed!)



Friday

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Week 2



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Hands-on STEM

Name:

Cotton bud Daisies

ODL:

Fine motor coordination and reasoning

In brief:

Cut cotton earbuds in half and use yellow playdough to represent the pollen at the centre of the flowers and green straws or pipe cleaners for the leaves to create the daisy. Talk to your child about how flowers use their colours and scents to attract bees for pollination.



Creative Expression

Name:

Wind Chimes

ODL:

Planning and fine motor coordination

In brief:

Use old cans, string and paint to create a wind chime. Ensure the cans are safe with no sharp edges. Have your child paint them with an acrylic-base paint. After they have completely dried ask dad to make holes for the string and help your child thread and tie the string. Hang them somewhere outside where they will catch the wind.



Monday



Hands-on STEM

Name:

Train Town

ODL:

Position and Direction

In brief:

Using recycled cardboard boxes, help your child to create a train set by drawing tracks and adding stations for the train to stop at along the way. Focus on words denoting position and direction as you work with them on building their train town.



Creative Expression

Name:

Patchwork House

ODL:

Shape manipulation

In brief:

Cut out the basic shape of a house from an old cardboard box. Give your child scrap materials, glue, crayons and kokis and have them 'decorate' the house, using the various items and materials to create windows, doors, curtains, etc.



Tuesday



Hands-on STEM

Name:

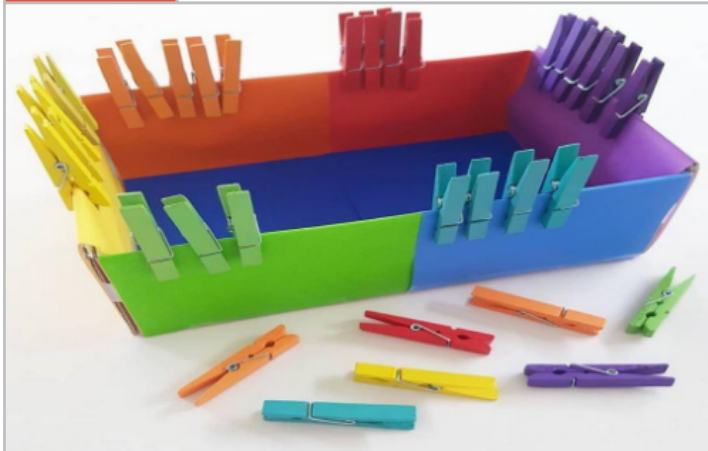
This little peggie

ODL:

Counting and sorting

In brief:

Using colour paper and clothes pegs, have your child sort the pegs to match the coloured pieces of paper. Ask them to count the total number of pegs of each colour and compare the number of pegs in each colour group.



Creative Expression

Name:

Easter Egg Threading

ODL:

Fine motor and hand-eye coordination

In brief:

Cut an egg shape out of paper with holes in line on both ends. Let your child use coloured string to thread straight from one hole to the opposite one, and repeating action.



Wednesday



Hands-on STEM

Name: Threading Patterns

ODL: Patterning

In brief: Using string/wool and different coloured straws cut in 3 - 4 cm pieces (or penne pasta dyed with food colouring). Have your child thread a series of A-B-A-B style patterns (e.g. red, green, red, green) and then A-B-C, A-B-C patterns (e.g. red, green, blue, red, green, blue) and then AA-BB-AA-BB etc. etc.



Creative Expression

Name: Toilet Roll Stamps

ODL: Cutting skills

In brief: Using child-safe scissors, work with your child to cut one end of cardboard toilet roll inners at one end into different shapes and styles. Press the cut ends to ensure they spread equally outward and then dip the cut ends into paint and let your child press them onto a piece of paper to make stamp art.



Thursday



Hands-on STEM

Name: Shoe Lace Tying

ODL: Fine motor coordination

In brief: Have your child practice tying their own shoe laces, either on a pair of your shoes or on a recycled egg carton with punched holes for the laces. It helps if the laces are different colours. Once they get good have them try double-knots and tying the laces with their eyes closed!



Creative Expression

Name: Bunny Print

ODL: Inventiveness and imaginative

In brief: Cut out a silhouette of a bunny shape and stick it with prestick onto a clean piece of paper. Have your child decorate the space around the bunny shape and so on till their whole page is full off prints or colour of any kind. Remove the bunny shape when paint has dried to create a negative-shape art piece.



Friday