

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

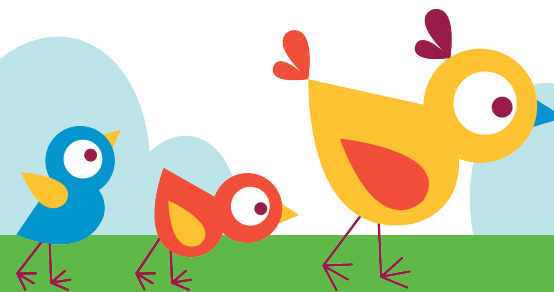
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Yellow Group

Week 1



For families with children 3 - 4 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.

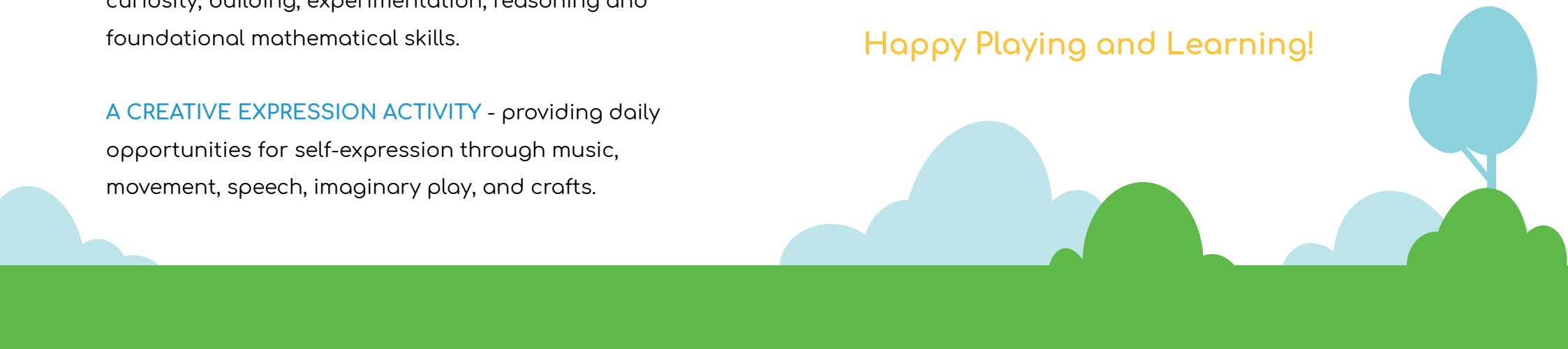
A CREATIVE EXPRESSION ACTIVITY - providing daily opportunities for self-expression through music, movement, speech, imaginary play, and crafts.

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!



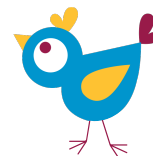


Hands-on STEM

Name: Box Road

ODL: Position and Direction

In brief: Flatten an old cardboard box and use a black marker to create road outlines. With the help of your kids and some blocks and other toys, you can create your very own city (please build plenty of hospitals!)



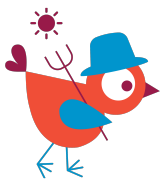
Creative Expression

Name: Plate Guitars

ODL: Musical instruments

In brief: Plastic dinner plates, cardboard, and elastic bands are all you need to build your own guitar with your kiddos. Let them decorate their own plates and encourage them to listen to guitar-based music and mimic the chords they hear.



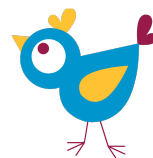


Hands-on STEM

Name: Sorting Shapes

ODL: Shape recognition/manipulation

In brief: Use an empty ice-tray to create a sorting game for your little one. Shapes, colours, numbers and letters are all good categories on which to get your child to practice their matching and sorting skills.



Creative Expression

Name: Plate Guitars

ODL: Musical instruments

In brief: Children love seeing their own names in writing. Give them the opportunity to decorate the letters of their name by creating large bubble letters on newspaper or brown paper and taping it somewhere where messy-play is allowed.





Hands-on STEM

Name: Parking bay numbers

ODL: Numeral recognition

In brief: Use the lid of a pizza box or a shoe box to create a series of numbered parking bays with a black marker. Add numbers to your child's toy cars or toy blocks and ask them to "park" the toys in their correct parking bays.



Creative Expression

Name: Sock Puppets

ODL: Coherent Expression

In brief: Dig out some old socks and scraps of material and wool and buttons and getting sewing and glueing and stapling with your child to create a sock puppet show for the rest of the family.





Hands-on STEM

Name: Building Bridges

ODL: Position and direction

In brief: Have your little ones build a series of bridges between cups using ice cream sticks or straws stuck together. Encourage them to test the strength of their bridges with various toy animals. Use position and directions words during the activity.



Creative Expression

Name: Threading Letters

ODL: Letter Recognition

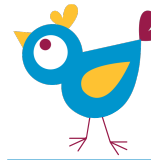
In brief: Create a large cut-out of the first letter of your child's name and punch a series of holes in it. Encourage your child to 'sew' some wool or other thread through as many of the punch holes as he/she can manage.





Hands-on STEM

Name:	Ginger-bread House
ODL:	Shape recognition/manipulation
In brief:	Use various shapes of cardboard to build a gingerbread house with your child. Encourage them to point out the corresponding shapes in your house at home.



Creative Expression

Name:	Self-portrait
ODL:	Drawing and painting
In brief:	Give your little one a hand mirror, some paper, and crayons and ask them to draw what they see. Guide them by getting them to describe each aspect of their face one-by-one before they begin drawing.



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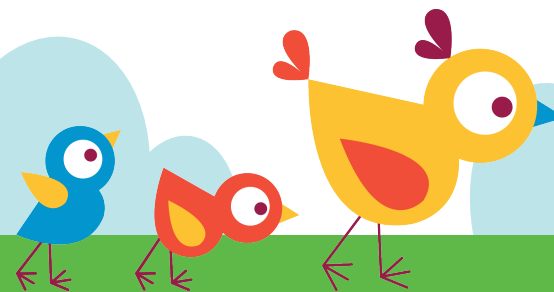
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Week 2



For families with children 3 - 4 years old
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Hands-on STEM

Name:	Circle Size Estimate
ODL:	Comparing and critical thinking
In brief:	Trace caps that all differ in size on a paper, mixed up instruct your child to place each cap where it belongs and fits perfectly.



Creative Expression

Name:	Rainbow Colour Sorting
ODL:	Colour recognition and sorting
In brief:	Copy or draw rainbow template on a sheet of paper, use colour paper that resembles rainbow as close as possible, instruct your child to only stick one colour shape per line having to search for individual colours before sticking and completing rainbow





Hands-on STEM

Name: Animal Measuring

ODL: Measurement skills

In brief: Collect a pile of pictures or toys of different sizes. Use building blocks to compare the lengths of these different objects and ask your comparative questions about these objects as they work.



Creative Expression

Name: Oversized animal Paws

ODL: Fantasy and exploratory play

In brief: Paint and decorate recycled tissue boxes to dramatically enlarge your child's tiny human feet to enormous animal paws. Play along with scenarios they come up with to accompany their new features.





Hands-on STEM

Name:	Playdough and Pasta
ODL:	Spacial awareness and concentrating
In brief:	Start with instructing your child to roll many round balls using the playdough, show physically how playdough ball and pasta can stand upright, challenge your child to stack this playdough ball and pasta technique



Creative Expression

Name:	Sponge Stamp Surprise
ODL:	Creativity and Imaginative
In brief:	Using recycled toilet rolls and sponges for stamp ask your child if you may create something with their help, colours picked get painted all over sponge, stamp and reveal your teamwork. Observe and give creative freedom to discover





Hands-on STEM

Name: Mallow-patterns

ODL: Repeat patterning

In brief: Use marshmallows to create a basic pattern by dipping them in paint and stamping them on a page. one pattern per row only two colours at a time., repeat until no space left, if edible paint was used feel free to allow your child to have some messy play time.



Creative Expression

Name: Hide and Seek Matching Pairs

ODL: Language and short-term recall

In brief: Collect a few objects found around your house in pairs. Hide one from each pair in a box with sand, oats, or rice. Hide the other somewhere around the house. Have your child dig for objects in the box and then search for their matching pair around the house.





Hands-on STEM

Name:	Number Stick Stack
ODL:	Quantity correspondence and numeral recognition
In brief:	Write the numbers 1 - 10 on individual cards and use playdough or prestick together with straws or sticks to set this activity up. Your child can use beads, buttons, cereal etc to count, stack and correctly represent each number they see.



Creative Expression

Name:	Kitchen Monster Art
ODL:	Imagination
In brief:	Use child-friendly kitchen utensils (such as spatulas, forks, potato mashers, sieves) and bowls of paint to create interesting stamps. When paint has dried use a marker to fill in monsters with limbs, let your child stick eyes for final touches.



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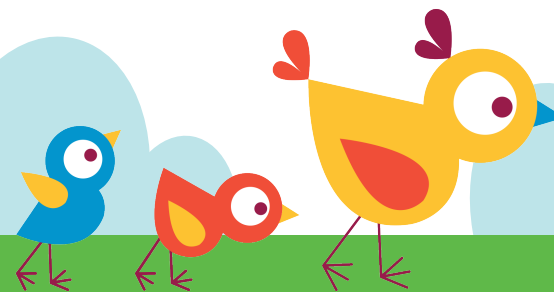
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Week 3



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Hands-on STEM

Name: Patchwork house

ODL: Shape manipulation

In brief: Collect scrap pieces of material, buttons and glue. Cut out cardboard into the shape of a house. Then let your child decorate the house in his/her unique way. Using the old fabric materials, buttons and glue.



Creative Expression

Name: Mirror craft

ODL: Fantasy Play

In brief: Cut the shape of a mirror out of a rigid piece of cardboard. Have your child cut a circle of tin foil and glue it onto the face of the cardboard 'mirror'. Encourage your child to decorate around the foil and paint their portrait on top of the foil.





Hands-on STEM

Name: Oil and Water

ODL: Critical thinking

In brief: Pour water into several cups. Pour oil into other cups and add food coloring to the oil (stir to combine). Have your child use a straw or a spoon to transfer droplets of coloured oil into the cups of water and explore the different densities.



Creative Expression

Name: Feelers

ODL: Classification

In brief: Trace your child's hand onto a piece of paper and then look around the house for items of different textures. Work with your child to cut the items out and glue them onto the paper hand. Ask your child to describe the different textures.





Hands-on STEM

Name: Water retention

ODL: Problem Solving

In brief: Fill a container with water and different-sized pompoms or sponges. Place an empty container next to it. Give your child a chance to squeeze the water out of the different-sized pompoms/sponges and to test which ones absorbed the most water.



Creative Expression

Name: Tin foil Easter Eggs

ODL: Patterning

In brief: Cut an egg shape out of cardboard. Have your child help you cover the egg shape with tin foil and then give him/her kokis to decorate the egg with repeated patterns. Work with your child to describe the different kinds of repeated patterns you are creating.





Hands-on STEM

Name: My family sensory bin

ODL: Vocabulary development

In brief: Hide photos of different family members in a sensory bin. Take turns with your child to dig in and find a picture. Then tell a story about the family member(s) in the photo.

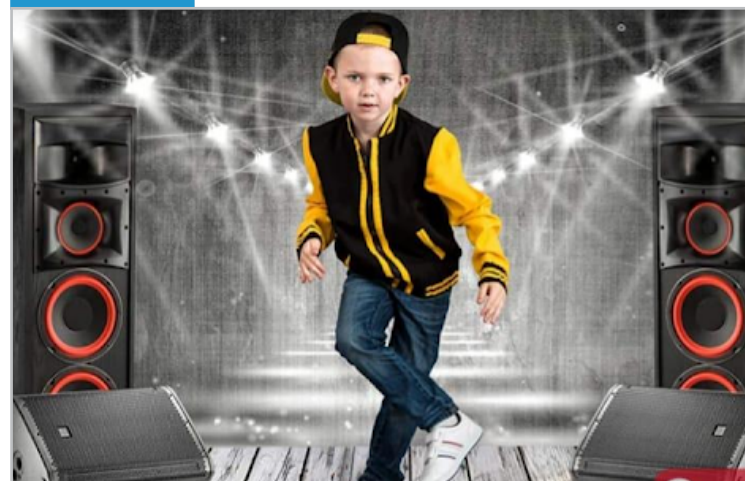


Creative Expression

Name: Spotlight dancing

ODL: Gross Motor Coordination

In brief: All you need is a torch, a music-player and a 'dance floor' area to pull off this activity. The whole family can play along! Each person should take a chance to dance 'in the spotlight', showing-off their different moves.





Hands-on STEM

Name: Take 5!

ODL: Number Sense

In brief: Write the number '0' on a paper plate. Then place five paper clips on the plate and write the number '5'. Place another five paper clips and then write the number '10' and so on. Have your child count the clips with you and use their fingers to track each bunch of five.



Creative Expression

Name: Fork Tulips

ODL: Creative Expression

In brief: Squeeze various colors of paint onto a piece of paper. Dip the backside of the fork in the paint, press down on the paper to make tulips impression, wipe the fork with paper towel. The child can use his or her fingers to add the stems in the flowers use the fork to make grass



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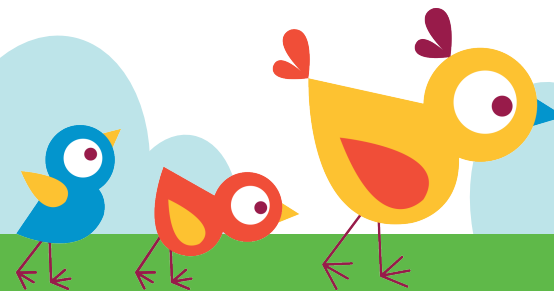
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Week 4



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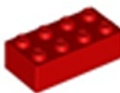


Hands-on STEM

Name: Colour matching and counting

ODL: Reasoning

In brief: Using a piece of paper, draw 4 columns. Using crayons or coloured markers make a coloured circle. (Red, Brown, Yellow and Green) Let your child go outside into the garden or around the house to look for items of the same colour. Let them put the objects they found in the column that matches its colour, then they must count how many objects each column has.



Creative Expression

Name: Pasta necklaces

ODL: Hand Eye Coordination

In brief: Allow your child to use food colouring and dry pasta to make a pasta necklace with string. Let the children dip the pasta into the food colouring to colour it and once dry, let them slide the pasta onto the string to make their necklaces.





Hands-on STEM

Name: Walking Water Experiment

ODL: Colour recognition

In brief: 7 Small plastic cups, Paper towels. Food colouring(Red, Yellow and Blue) and water. Place 7 cups in a row, pour water into the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th cup. Make the cups $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Add 5 drops red food colouring to the 1st and 7th cup. 5 drops Yellow to 3rd cup and 5 drops Blue to the 5th cup. Place 1 half of a rolled paper towel into the 1st cup and the other half into the next cup. Then another paper towel from 2nd and 3rd cup and so on until the 6th and 7th cup. Watch what happens as the water crawls up the paper towel.



Creative Expression

Name: Shakers

ODL: Musical Instrument

In brief: 2 paper or plastic cups or 2 paper plates, tape and dry rice. Let your child decorate the cups or plates. Once they are done, place some dry rice in 1 cup, place the 2nd cup on top and tape the cups together. If you are using paper plates, place the rice on 1 plate, cover with the 2nd plate and tape down the edges.





Hands-on STEM

Name:	Mallow-patterns
ODL:	Repeat patterning
In brief:	Using two pieces of paper, draw 6 shapes on each page, ie: square, circle, triangle, star, oval and crescent (moon). Give your child one of the pages and a pair of scissors to cut out the shapes (with assistance) and some glue. Paste the corresponding shape on the other page.



Creative Expression

Name:	In the garden
ODL:	Drawing and painting
In brief:	Provide your child with paper and crayons, let them sit outside and draw what they see in the garden.



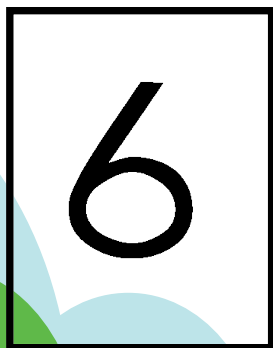


Hands-on STEM

Name: Playdough balls and numbers

ODL: Number recognition

In brief: Divide 3 sheets of paper into 4 pieces. Write the number 1 on a piece of paper, do this until you have 10 pieces of paper (or higher if your child knows the number). Place the numbers in front of your child. Let your child roll playdough balls and match them to the numbers on the papers, eg: the number 6 and 6 balls of dough.
Playdough: 2 cups flour, 2 tablespoons oil, ½ cup salt, 2 tablespoons cream of Tartar, 1 to 1½ cups boiling water added in increments until it feels just right



Creative Expression

Name: Hand Painting

ODL: Fine Motor Coordination

In brief: Place a big piece of paper on the wall outside in the garden or inside. Draw a picture of a bunny's face or any other animal and allow your child to use their hands to paint the picture using a hand print.

