

SUGGESTIONS Natural Ways of Learning in the Home

Pastoral Wellbeing Team
Catholic Education Sandhurst
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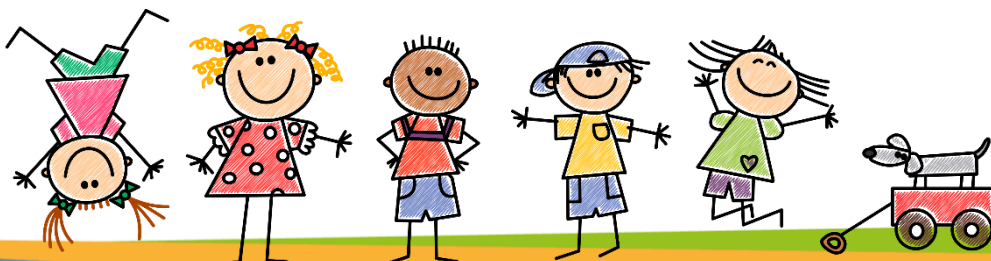
Practical, low cost and easy to access ways to tap into the six natural ways of learning at home with your children.

Play

- Schedule outdoor and indoor play opportunities through the day.
- Encourage play in bedrooms or other rooms in the house - change locations!
- Make a fort, cubby or tent out of a sheet or blanket.
- Construct a town with blocks.
- Free play with construction materials - blocks, packaging, etc...
- Water play with kitchen items in the bath or kiddy pool. (*Supervise water activities!*)
- Sand play with sandpit toys or kitchen items.
- Set up an actual tent outside (or inside) - pretend camp.
- Imaginary play with 'loose parts' i.e. collection of random, recycled or small household items e.g., buttons, spools, nuts & bolts, scraps of material, pieces of wood, etc...
- Look for minibeasts in the backyard e.g., snails, worms, slaters, etc...
- Play shops, businesses, jobs and or roles e.g. what would you like to be when you grow up?
- Play superheroes or story characters. Play dress ups.

Games

- Card games.
- Board games.
- Invent a card or board game - test it - improve it - play it!
- Computer games. (*Monitor & limit screen time!*)
- Hold a family Lego building competition.
- Create a family version of a favourite TV gameshow!
- Play charades.
- Use scrabble pieces or letters written on paper squares to make words.
- Stand face to face. One person 'perform' actions - other person 'mirror' actions. Swap roles.

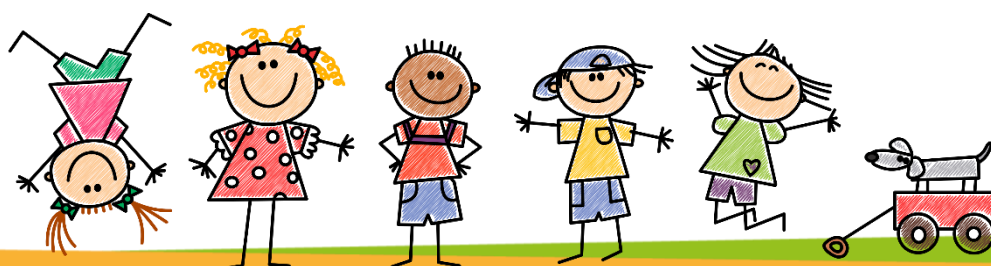


Story

- Read books, magazines, comic books, newspapers, brochures, etc...
- Sign up for online book sites for children.
- Read with your children e.g., a paragraph or page each - take turns!
- Make up & tell stories. Make books!
- Create written stories or play scripts - act them out!
- Write a song and perform - record yourself and replay!
- Write 'choose your own adventure stories'.
- Ring up a friend or relative and read or sing to them.
- Ask a friend or relative to phone and read to your child.
- Write and perform poems.
- Play rhyming games.
- Play 'I' spy.
- Brainstorm fairy story plots, characters and write/act your own. Change the endings!
- Make flashcards with characters, settings, events and problems. Draw cards from each pile and create, write or act out story using the drawn idea suggestions.

Dialogue

- Discuss memories of events, experiences e.g., outings, school excursions, etc...
- Hold a mock debate.
- Ask open ended questions e.g., Can you tell me of your favourite holiday?
 - Tell me about where you would like to visit in the world and what you would do there?
- Act out a comic book or cartoon strip taking parts of the characters and reading or paraphrasing the text.
- Set up a 'newsdesk' in the loungeroom. Write and share 'breaking' news stories on given topics. Discuss the 'news' items as a 'panel'.
- Finish one another's sentences. Do this as a 'funny' conversation.



Art

- Make and do with recycled products, sticky tape, glue, etc...
- Make pictures in shaving cream on a table.
- Make flour-based playdough or 'playdoh' to create objects.
- Introduce your children to your music - pull out your tapes, vinyl records. (If you still have them!)
- Dance - teach children the Bus Stop, Macarena, Nutbush, etc... (Invent a new dance!)
- Draw pictures in a sand tray e.g. baking tray with thin sand layer.
- Create pictures from squiggles or scribbles on a page.
- Collect natural items from the yard and make a picture.
- Design and make jewellery from threadable items and string.
- Use textas to create a design on a white or light coloured shirt.
- Make mud cakes, pies, pictures or pottery items.
- Draw your dream house, car, holiday location, etc...

Ceremony

- Put out family photos, photo albums.
- Watch home movies of family events.
- Have your child plan their next birthday party or family event - create a guest list, make invitations, make a list of party needs, brainstorm games & activities, make party hats / streamers / decorations. You can store this 'party pack' until later.
- Hold a mock celebration.
- Organise a family disco. Create playlists, decorations, invitations, posters.
- Cook or create the family meal together with your children (Breakfast, snacks, lunch, & dinner!)
- Plan and hold a fashion parade. Design new fashions!
- Design and hold a family olympics. Create a number of events to participate in. Include the presentation ceremonies after each event. Make flags to represent your team.

