

Ideas for Literacy Activities - No Computer Required

Here are a few activities that don't need a computer. You might like to try these with your child at home, hopefully you will have fun.

Story prompts

This word game involves making up a story by taking turns in saying sentences. One person starts the story, and says the first sentence. The second person continues the story with another sentence, and so on. The stories can become very interesting as each person has different ideas.



If it is too difficult for your child to think of something to say 'out of thin air,' you can try giving them a few objects and use them to prompt story ideas. For example: a toy car, a map, an AA card, a bag of crisps. Perhaps the story might be about a car breaking down on a trip and only having a packet of crisps to eat!

Plan a scavenger hunt

Compile a small list of simple items for your child to photograph and/or collect. These can be items to find outside such as a flower, a stick or a stone, or items from inside the house (a spoon, a hairbrush, a button and so on). Give your child a specific time limit and have them report back with the items they've found. You can ask them to say the name of each item, and perhaps to spell it out to you too.

Rubbish Ball Spelling

Gather clean rubbish bins, buckets or saucepans and some paper. Pick a few words from your child's spelling or vocabulary list. Write them onto separate pieces of paper. Crumple each one up and place into the bin/bucket/saucepan. Ask your child to take a piece of paper out, read the word, then crumple it back up and spell it without looking. For each word they spell correctly they can try and throw it in. Continue until each ball has made it in.



Wallpaper Fun

If you have an old roll of wallpaper or lining paper, it can be used to create all sorts of interesting things.

- A fun thing is draw around your child and then either colour, or stick items on to fill the body shape. This is excellent for teaching the names of body parts.
- You can use the same idea to help your child think about what they should be wearing to suit the weather. Draw around your child. Then tell them what you imagine the weather is like (you can use images to help). They have to decide what to wear if it is sunny/windy/cold/wet etc. Send them around the house to find things to dress their drawing! They come back and put the items onto the outline in the right positions on the body.
- If you have access to outside space younger children can collect items such as twigs, leaves and dandelions to stick onto the paper (a paste of flour and water makes a good, safe glue – although it is very messy). They can re-create their garden. They can label the items they have found.
- If you are indoors, try using buttons, bits of foil and so on to stick on, again you can label the things you have found.
- Older children might like to create a large scale treasure map on the paper.

Bingo

Draw a square grid on a page and choose a theme. Write out some words using the theme. For example, a beach: swimming, sand castles, water, sea shells, crabs, sunbeds, picnic etc.



Make a copy of the words ensuring there are a few extra than the amount on the page. Cut them up into squares and put in a bowl scrunched up. Take turns in pulling out a word and reading it out loud, then finding it on your page. The first person to find all of the words calls out Bingo and is the winner.

Word Family Game

This game requires children to rhyme. Select one word and everyone needs to write as many words as they can that rhyme with that word. So, if the word is “cat”, answers could be: hat, bat, rat, sat etc.

This is a great word game to help build vocabulary and language skills.

Unscramble the words

Write a list of words down on paper but scramble the letter order while writing. Children will need to look at the letters and try to work out what the word is and guess it. If it is too hard, write the letters onto small pieces of paper so that your child can move them around until they have created a sensible word.



Categories

Ask your child to write out the alphabet A-Z with one letter on each line. Then think of a theme and challenge them to think of as many things as they can that begin with each letter of the alphabet using that theme. This works well taking turns in a small group. Categories/themes could include: food, names, countries, pop bands.

Words within a word

Choose one really long word with at least 8-10 letters. The longer the better.

The aim of this word game is for children to try to make a list of small words out of the letters of the long word. So for example the word COMPUTER includes: put, cot, term, core, mop, top, pet.



I am going on a picnic

One person starts and says "I am going on a picnic and I will bring some... fruit"

The next person says what the first person said, and adds something of their own. "I am going on a picnic and I will bring some fruit, and some sandwiches.



The next person says what the first, and second person said, and adds something of their own. "I am going on a picnic and I will bring some fruit, some sandwiches and some ice-cream.

You continue on and on and it gets more difficult to remember everything. This game helps with memory, and also learning new vocabulary