

22nd Feb 2021 – Home Learning

We hope that you have all enjoyed some time together over the half term break. We are looking forward to another busy half term at Ambleside. The home learning this week links to the Percy the Parkkeeper story – The Secret Path by Nick Butterworth. It is one of Joanne’s favourite stories and she will share it on our Facebook page – we hope you enjoy it. You can also watch a version of the story here: [Percy the Park Keeper: The Secret Path - Bing video](#)

Percy the Parkkeeper activity ideas:

Hide and seek

In the story the animals play hide and seek – although they don’t always find good hiding places. Have a try at home – where are the best hiding places?

Mathematics – saying number names in order to 10 or 20.

Communication & Language

– using words to describe their hiding place (position) e.g. under, next to, behind, between, in.



String painting

Percy uses string so that he doesn’t get lost in the maze. At nursery we use string when we are painting – have a try at home – there are some suggestions here: [Easy String Art Painting Experiment with Kids \(tinkerlab.com\)](#). You may end up with a painting that looks just like a maze!

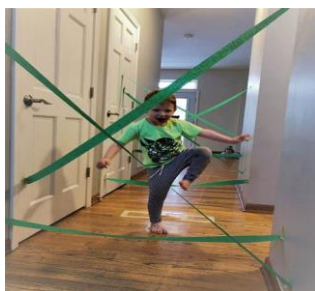
Exploring arts and design – experimenting with different techniques, textures and colours



Make a maze

Can you create your own maze either inside or in the garden? You could make an obstacle course using things from around the house to travel in, on, under or through. If you are feeling creative, we love the sticky tape spider’s web maze:

Physical Development – moving in a variety of ways, safely negotiating space



Helping at home

Percy has lots of jobs to do before he can play with the animals. What jobs can you help with at home this week?

Personal, Social and Emotional Development – enjoying the responsibility of carrying out small tasks.

Core values – working together, looking after ourselves and others



Sleeping lions

This is a great game to encourage children to have some calm, quiet time during their busy day – just like when the animals went to sleep in the middle of the maze. Can the children lay completely still, pretending to be asleep? Who can stay still the longest?



Toasted tea cakes

The Percy stories always end with him relaxing with a toasted tea cake. Can you make yourself a toasted teacake, crumpet or muffin to enjoy like Percy? Safely use a knife to add butter or jam.

Physical Development - handles tools safely and manipulates them with increasing control.



Other Ideas:

Sensory bags

At nursery, we recently filled and sealed clear gloves with different materials for the children to explore e.g. sand, mud, water, peas, rice, pom poms, flour. It evoked so much language from the children. Give it a try at home (tied food bags would work just as well)

Communication and Language – widening vocabulary, using words to describe different textures.



Story factory

Children naturally tend to make up their own stories from a very early age. Set up a story factory with people, animals or dinosaurs and some construction materials and observe what they do. Stretch the children's imaginations by talking about the world they have created. You could even write their story down together.

Expressive arts and design building stories around toys

Communication and Language – uses language to recreate and imagine roles and experiences.



Underwater counting

Play this fun under the sea game encouraging your child to count the creatures and match to the corresponding number

Mathematics – counts objects saying one number name for each item. Recognises numerals to five or ten

[Learn to Count up to 10 with Underwater Counting Maths Game \(topmarks.co.uk\)](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-aids/games-and-puzzles/underwater-counting-maths-game)



Welcome to the zoo

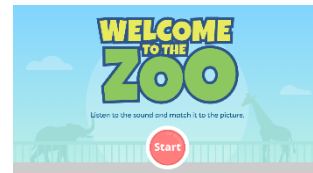
[Welcome To The Zoo \(phonicsplay.co.uk\)](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/welcome-to-the-zoo)

This phonics game will help children tune into sounds by matching animal noises. Have fun by encouraging the children to copy the animal sounds that they hear.

Understanding the World

– completing a simple game on the computer

Phonics – listening, copying and matching environmental sounds.



Loose part play – transient art

Provide or collect a range of materials – these could be natural materials, metals - even food items! Encourage the children to explore and create pictures, patterns and sequences. You may like to use string or chalk to create a frame for the artwork.



Expressive Arts and Design – explore, manipulate and experiment with materials

Mathematics – opportunities for discussions around patterns and sequences.

Shape hunt

Go on a shape hunt of the local area (or in the house if isolating!). Encourage the children to look for shapes in the environment – they will find that shapes really are everywhere! You could make a tally of the shapes found, draw pictures of them or take photographs.

Mathematics – identifying and talking about shapes and their properties.

SHAPE HUNT

