

Blue Keyworker Activities

Positional Language Hide and Seek!

What is it? Hide and seek using a soft toy (like a teddy bear), with a difference! This can help to develop awareness of positional language and increase vocabulary. It can also develop their awareness of number names and counting.

What to do: Choose a soft toy to hide. Ask your child to close their eyes and count to ten (if they struggle to count to ten ask someone to help them, or just ask them to close their eyes and wait). Hide the soft toy in a position (In, On, Under, Behind, or Next to). Then ask your child to open their eyes and tell them the toy is either in, on, under, behind, or next to - depending on where you have hidden it. Once the child has found the toy ask them where it was, encouraging them to use the positional language phrase e.g. "It was in the box", "It was under the table", "It was behind the TV", "It was on the bed", "It was next to the vase".

What else can you do? Take turns to hide the toy, ensuring you are using the positional language phrase each time and encouraging your child to do the same.



Ordering Numbers.

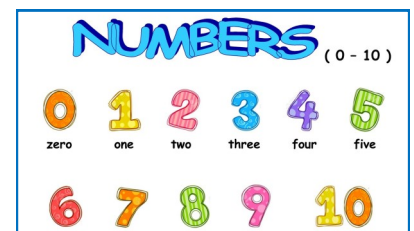
What is it? A song and activity to help us to understand number order from 0 to 10 and develop an awareness of number names and recognition.

What to do: Write the numbers from 0 to 10 on to small pieces of paper. Place them into an empty bag or box. Take turns to pick a number out and then place it onto the floor (in a random order), singing the appropriate number song as you do. Once you have picked all of the numbers begin placing them in order (starting at 0 and ending with 10), each time using your fingers to count and stopping to see if your child knows which number comes next and if they can find it.

The Song: The tune 'If you're happy and you know it clap your hands' - make sure you do the actions to suit as you sing!

0. If you see a number zero be a super hero, if you see a number zero be a super hero, if you see a number zero, if you see a number zero, if you see a number zero be a super hero.

1. Eat a scone.
2. Tap your shoe.
3. Swim in the sea.
4. Squash the dough.
5. Do a jive.
6. Chop some sticks.
7. Drive to Devon.
8. Slam the gate.
9. Peg on the line.
10. Draw with a pen.



What else can you do? Depending on your accent change the words that rhyme with the numbers to suit. Once you have ordered the numbers can you place the correct amount of objects with the number? Can you hold up the correct amount of fingers for the numbers.

Squiggle While you Wiggle!

What is it? Squiggle while you wiggle is a mark making activity and can help to develop fine motor skills and pencil control ready for early writing.

What to do: Give your child two pencils (or crayons) and a large piece of paper. Encourage your child to hold one pencil in each hand. Have two pencils and a large piece of paper yourself. Play some music (something with a good beat works best), at nursery we like to use Pharrell Williams - Happy, The Jackson 5 - ABC or from the film Madagascar - I like to move it. Begin making vertical lines on your paper (moving both hands at the same time and in time with the music), after a few minutes change to horizontal lines.

What else can you do? Can you make small circles? Big circles? Zig zag lines? You can make whatever marks you like on the paper. Just encourage your child to do the same as you!



Cutting Strips.

What is it? Cutting paper strips using scissors which can help to develop hand eye coordination. It also helps to develop scissor control and cutting for a purpose.

What to do: Cut thick strips of paper (the longer the better.) In the centre of the paper draw a straight thick line. Tape the top of the paper strip to a table (or other flat surface). Give your child some scissors (child safe), sitting on the floor in front of the paper strip, encourage them to cut up the line you have drawn until they reach the top.

What else can you do? Draw wavy lines, Zig Zag lines. If your child finds cutting up the line too difficult encourage them to make snips around the outside of the paper.



Find the shape!

What is it? Hide and seek using shapes - also with a song to sing! This can help develop an awareness of shape name and can help with shape recognition!

What to do: Print, or draw and cut out the four basic shapes - Circle, square, triangle, rectangle. Hide them around the house (you can hide as many as you like). Ask your child to find a particular shape and bring it back to you. If your child is struggling with which shape is which hold the shape up to show them and sing the song. To the tune 'The farmers in his den'. (make sure you hold the shape up as you sing). A circle is like a ball, a circle is like a ball, round and round it never stops a circle is like a ball. A square is like a box, a square is like a box, it has four sides they are the same, a square is like a box. A triangle has three sides, a triangle has three sides, up the mountain, down and back, a triangle has three sides. A rectangle has four sides, a rectangle has four sides, two are long and two a short a rectangle has four sides.

What else can you do? Take turns to hide and find the shape. Ask your child to find a particular number of the shape to add a mathematics element. Can you make and hide any other shapes?

