

## Blue Keyworker Activities

### Name writing

**What to do:** We explore writing our name in lots of different ways at nursery. All children learn this skill at different times and stages – so if your child isn't yet forming letters from their name – Don't worry!

Talk about the different letters in your child's name; make sure you use the letter sound – not the name of the letter. (e.g. don't use A (Ay), use a (ah)).

We don't encourage children copying, tracing or following dots to write their name. Instead, demonstrate how to correctly form each letter (e.g. letter L – Start at the top, down and along)

Make writing fun, using a tray squirt shaving foam into it and encourage your child to use their finger to form the letters.

**What else can you do?** Why not use sand or glitter in a tray and encourage your child to use a paintbrush or their finger to form the letters. Could you use a whiteboard and pen to write? Outdoors use a paintbrush and water.



### Making marks to represent quantity

**What to do:** Give your child a piece of paper and pencil. Tell them you are going to make a noise using an instrument. Each time they hear you make the noise, they need to make a mark on the paper (this could be any type of mark, a line or dot)

Using an instrument e.g. a bell or drum would work well or pan and spoon make noise every few seconds. (Make sure you count how many noises you make). Start with a small number of noises – 3 or 4 and gradually increase the amount you make.

Once you have finished encourage your child to count how many different marks they have made on the paper. Did they make the right amount?

**What else can you do?** Once you have counted up the marks on the paper, can your child write the numeral to match?



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### Spring Chicken!

**What is it?** An Easter song we have been learning.

**The words:** One Mother hen sat on one little egg. Keeping it warm in a little egg nest, then one day she heard a CRACK! And a little voice said as the egg was hatched! I'm a spring chicken, I'm yellow and small, my feathers are fluffy and they're keeping me warm, my legs are not long, so I'll never be tall, but I'm a real spring chicken and I'm having a ball. I'm a chicken, I'm a chicken and I'm having a ball YEAH!

**What else can you do?** Why not make an Easter headband to wear whilst you sing the song? Could you make up actions for the song?



### Making up a story

**Why?** This week we were going to create a story all about the blue group and what happens at nursery.

**What to do:** Talk about story structure. How could a story begin? E.g. One day Mrs Hall came to nursery and hung up her coat. She sat down in the blue group area and waited for her friends to arrive.... What happens next?

Talk about what you will add into your story. What happens when the children first arrive at nursery? Where do they put their coats? What do we do during key worker time? Who is there? What do we do next? Where do we have lunch? What could we eat? What happens after lunch? Do any more friends arrive at nursery? What happens at home time? Make sure when you write the story, it is in your child's words – even if it doesn't seem to make sense or is a little jumbled!

**What else can you do?** Could you draw pictures to go with your story? Could you make a book?



### Cross the river...

**What is it?** A game to develop listening and attention skills

**What to do:** Using a piece of material (a bed cover, sheet or towel will work – blue if possible), lay it on the floor like a river. Ask your child to stand on one side of the river. Use the phrases if you are wearing, if you are, if you have...cross the river. E.g. if you are 3, cross the river. If you are wearing red, cross the river, if you have a brother, cross the river. Make lots of different statements (both that you know they are/have/are wearing and that you know they don't) and see if your child can follow the instruction given.

**What else can you do?** Could your child make statements for you to cross the river? Could you give your child two part instructions: If you are wearing red AND have a brother, cross the river.

