


# Home learning ideas

# Read a story

You will need:

- A good book or two
- A comfy seat or bed



Activity:

- For younger children and babies choose board and touch and feel books with simple, bold and big pictures.
- They will begin to learn about how to hold books and turn pages
- Naming the pictures will help develop their language and building their vocabulary.
- Children really enjoy books with repetitive phrases. Try pausing so that your child can finish sentences e.g. "We're going on a … bear hunt"
- You can of course read any time but it is a great habit to get into a reading routine before bed every night

- Talk about the pictures with your child. This is a great way to talk together and learn to answer and ask questions. Never feel like you have to only read the words or read all of the words.
- Teach your child about how to handle books the right way up and to turn pages carefully.
- Point to the words as you read. This will help your child understand that print has meaning and in English is read from left to right.
- Enjoy your time together and follow your child's lead.

## Challenge

- Ask open ended questions about the story such as "What do you think will happen next? Why do you think he or she did that? What would you do?"
- Look at different letters and sounds for example spotting the first letter of their name in the book.

# Sorting the washing



You will need:

Washing basket or other container

Lots of clean clothes!

Activity:

- Encourage your child to help you sort out the clean washing.
- Put all of the pants, tops, trousers and other items into separate piles
- Match the socks by finding the same colours or patterns
- You may also want to count how many of each.
- Talk about colours, patterns and different materials. You could ask your child to find items e.g. "Can you find the socks with the spots?" or "Can you find the red t-shirt?"



- Have a space where your child can put their clothes, such as one drawer/box for socks, another for trousers etc.
- As they put away their own washing, it will increase their sense of independence and self confidence as well sorting skills.
- Practice using different ways of fastening clothes. Your child may enjoy playing with Velcro, buttons and zips.
- Talk about patterns, types of material, design, stitches. You'd be surprised how much can be learned from doing the washing!

## Challenge

- Label the drawers (a post it note would work) with the word and/or a picture and read the word pointing left to right.
- Talk about the initial sounds e.g. 'sock' begins with an 'ssss' sound.

# What's in the bag?

Resources:

- Cloth or plastic bag, a box could work too
- Up to ten different objects such as toy cars, spoons, blocks, socks etc...



Activity:

- Sit on the floor with your child and whoever would like to join in. Shake it and sing:

*"What's in the bag?*

*What's in the bag?*

*Tell me, tell me*

*What's in the bag?"*

*(To the tune of 'The Farmer wants a wife')*

- Close your eyes, take out one object and say what it is.
- Start with only three or four items then add more if it is too easy.
- Once you have had your turn , pass the bag and help to sing the song for the next person.
- Don't spend too long. Only do as much as your child wants to. Most importantly have fun!

## Challenge

- Try to guess what it is by feeling it before taking it out.
- Ask about the how it feels e.g. Soft/hard, rough/smooth or the shape. This will really help build their vocabulary.
- Once you have named all of the items lay them out on a surface and cover them with a cloth. Take away one object without your child seeing and then lift up the cloth. Can they guess what is missing?

# Shopping List

Resources:

- Paper and felt pens
- Old magazines or junk mail
- Scissors and glue



Activity:

- Talk with your child about what the family need. Write your own list and encourage your child to write their own list.
- You could use pictures from magazines, junk mail or packaging to make a list. This is a great opportunity for them to practice using scissors and gluing.
- Talk to your child about which foods are healthy and which are 'treat' or foods that we have 'sometimes'.

- When you are shopping you could group the items by category, for example, by putting all the fruit together and then the vegetables.
- At the supermarket or shop help your child find the items and put them in the trolley. Help them to match the words on the packet to the words on the list.
- If you pay in cash, your child could hand over the money and talk to the person at the check-out. It is a great way for them to learn social skills, confidence and also begin to understand how the world of money works.
- Don't spend too long. Only do as much as your child wants to. Most importantly have fun!

## Challenge

- Talk about the sounds of the letters. For example 'banana' starts with a 'b' sound, "b-b-banana".
- Look at and talk about the numbers on the price label.

# Sorting the cupboard

Resources:

- Pots and lids
- Floor space
- Wooden spoons



Activity:

- With your child, sort the pots and pans by size and shape.
- Match the lids to the pots.
- Use wooden spoons to pretend that you are mixing or pretend cooking.
- You could use spoons as drumsticks to make some music.
- You could add other kitchen items such as potato mashers and measuring spoons.

- If you have an area that you don't mind getting a bit wet or messy, you could add water or corn flour gloop (corn flour mixed with water) to a few pots and let your child explore.
- Try adding balls or large marbles (if not a choking risk for your child) to the pots so they can experiment with rolling and making sounds.
- Your child may want to help you put the pots and pans back in the cupboard.

## Challenge

- You could hide a few pots of different sizes under a blanket and tap one with a spoon. Lift up the blanket and see if your child can guess which pot made the sound.
- You could use a pot or bowl to hide items and see if your child can remember where you put them. E.g. "Where's the ball?" Your child might love turning the pots or bowls over to find the toys!

# Making a sandwich

Resources:

- Bread and sandwich fillings
- Butter knife
- Plate
- Cookie cutters (optional)



Activity:

- Talk with your child about what they would like in their sandwich.
- You could use cookie cutters to cut the bread into different shapes before making the sandwich. Count how many sides and corners each shape has.
- Talk to your child about which foods are healthy and which are 'treat' or 'sometimes only' foods.
- Your child could spread butter or other spreads onto the bread. It may take them some practice but try not to help too much!
- You could talk about the different ingredients and how they feel e.g. soft, squidgy, crunchy or how they taste e.g. salty, sweet- building their vocabulary as you go.
- Encourage your child to help you tidy up afterwards and put lids back on containers and screw lids onto jars etc. They may even want to wash the dishes!

## Challenge

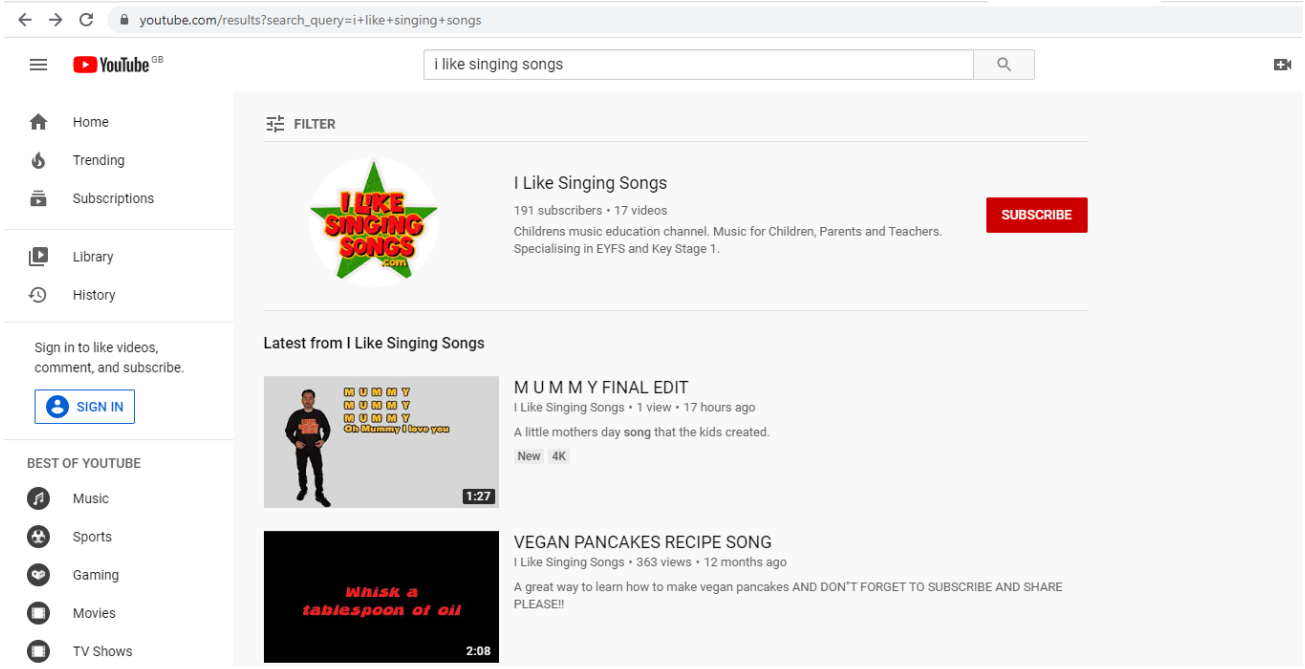
- You could point out what the words or logos on the food packaging say or get your child spot some of the letters in their name.
- Ask your child to give you the instructions to make the sandwich. Do **exactly** as they say. They will soon realise they need to give clearer explanations.

# I LIKE SINGING SONGS

Our children love their music sessions with Corin. They might enjoy singing along with the songs he has taught them via his YouTube channel.

Just head to youtube.com or use a YouTube app and type 'I like singing songs' in the search bar. This will provide a link to take you straight to Corin's page (see below).



# Links to even more fantastic ideas:



Astronauts on the Space Station reading stories to and conducting science experiments for the children of Earth as the world rotates below.

www.storytimefromspace.com

The CBeebies website offers a wealth of fun games, video clips, songs and ideas of things to make - all with much loved CBeebies characters and shows.

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies




Smart videos for curious minds of all ages on a wide range of themes

www.thekidsshouldseethis.com

# 100 Things to do indoors

www.spreadthehappiness.co.uk



1. Make non-cook playdough, then have a Dough Disco
2. Paint 'our families' portrait
3. Write and make a book
4. Draw flowers or the fruit bowl
5. Learn some laughter yoga www.robertrivest.com
6. Finger paint
7. Make a band from kitchen pots and pans
8. Footprint paint
9. Have a dance alarm every 30 minutes
10. Have a karaoke
11. Send a video message to family and friends to get them busy
12. Have a birthday party for a pet or cuddly toy
13. Have an indoor picnic
14. Discover your favourite story and share it together
15. Order books alphabetically
16. Have an indoor treasure hunt
17. Dress up in adult shoes
18. Find a fairy door in your house or garden
19. Do the Hokey Cokey
20. Take a selfie through a toilet roll tube and pretend you are on the moon

21. Make cards for everyone at home
22. Get some sheets to flap and pretend they are the waves and jump in
23. Make cakes
24. Get material or cardboard and make mermaid or merman's tails
25. Get all the chairs together and make a bus, play conductors and drivers
26. Make a camp in your bed
27. Make a dark den and use a torch
28. Write a letter to a neighbour or friend
29. Colour in a colouring book or draw a picture
30. Make wool or string hair over a chair
31. Have a pamper day
32. Have a scrunched up paper fight (from recycling)
33. Make ice lollies with cordial and water
34. Make sandwiches in strange shapes
35. Make a pretend car from boxes/furniture
36. Learn a rhyme or poem
37. Make paper aeroplanes
38. Have a pirate adventure, make boats from boxes or furniture
39. Blow bubbles and catch them
40. Make a number frieze for the wall, decorate

41. Read Pirate George series available on Kindle
42. Make a papier mache sculpture over a balloon
43. Keep a balloon up in the air game
44. Play a board game
45. Play hide and seek
46. Play dominoes
47. Learn a card game
48. Make smoothies
49. Perform a puppet show
50. Make shadow puppets
51. Make finger/sock puppets
52. Choreograph a dance or learn a dance routine
53. Have an upside down meals day, lunch for breakfast etc.
54. Learn a sing-along for Spread the Happiness TV
55. Learn to cook something new
56. Learn Brilliant Beast Song on Spread the Happiness TV YouTube Channel
57. Leave happy notes all around the house
58. Make a fitness routine and put your family through their paces
59. Using vegetables, make characters
60. Dance and sing to Knees up Mother Brown

61. Play I spy
62. Open your windows and sing out a song
63. Learn Days of the Week Song
64. Play musical statues
65. Learn a Beatles song
66. Learn a Queen song
67. Make an indoor restaurant and serve your family
68. Have a toy's tea party
69. Roll balls down the stairs
70. Be superheroes with capes
71. Eat cereal with a gigantic spoon
72. Have an ice cream party
73. Enter an online competition to win a prize
74. Vacuum your home
75. Polish your home
76. Fold up sheets
77. Use a sheet as a parachute to fluff up and hide under and play parachute games
78. Make binoculars with toilet rolls and look out the window at the birds
79. Make yoghurt pot telephones
80. Make a junk model rocket as large as you can

81. Create a comedy show
82. Pretend to conduct an orchestra to music
83. Hike up your stairs like it is a mountain, so so high
84. Roll around a large space in your home
85. Hop around like a bunny
86. Learn to play sleeping bunnies
87. Learn and act out 5 Little Monkeys
88. Find as many collections of 10 things in your home as you can
89. Dance in the shower
90. Sing in the shower
91. Squirt shaving foam in your hands
92. Make a scrap book of your favourite things, people
93. Play Jack in the Box in a large cardboard box
94. Have a themed party
95. Stay up late to look at the stars with a night time picnic
96. Play apple bobbing
97. Jump on the bed
98. Bash a pinata
99. Do coin rubbing with paper and crayons
100. Play pass the parcel

www.spreadthehappiness.co.uk