

Month 4

Threading –

you'll need some string or wool for this activity, cut into a few longish pieces.

Next you need to get some things to thread. These will be items that your child can push and pull the string into and through, and you can provide different challenges for different stages of development depending on how big the holes are: cardboard tubes (left as they are with one big hole down the middle, or with extra holes made in the sides, or cut into slices to make 'rings'), egg boxes with holes made in them, a small cardboard box with holes added, a colander, a set of keys (don't lose them!). Anything that has holes and is safe for your child to play with. Show your child how to push the string into a hole and pull it out the other side. You may need to tie one end of the string to the threading object, so it doesn't keep pulling all the way through. This activity is all about the action and fun of threading, rather than making something look lovely!

*Moving and Handling –
Fine Motor Skills*

Hoops –

you may have a plastic hoola-ing hoop, but if you don't you can cut a doughnut shape (with a hole big enough for your child to fit through) out of a large cardboard box, or bend a long piece of wire to make a hoop (remember to make sure things are safe). Now hold the hoop so your child can climb through it, or they can wriggle the hoop over their head and all the way down their body to the floor. Can they hang the hoop off their arm and make it spin by moving their arm round and round? Can they do the same with their leg? For earlier stages of development, if your child is crawling, they could crawl through the hoop, if they are toddling, they could step in and out of it.

*Moving and Handling –
Gross Motor Skills*

December's activities are all about the Prime Areas of Learning: **Personal Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Communication and Language**. Remember, children learn through repetition, so you can do these activities again and again.

How, What, Why? –

inviting your child to explain things can help with their speaking and understanding. Perhaps they have built something out of blocks or made something out of boxes and yogurt pots. You could ask them: Tell me about what you've made? How did you do it? Why did you decide to put that bit there? Or they might have a toy with buttons and switches, or you could be doing the washing and using knobs and switches on the machine. You could ask: What happens when we press this button/switch? How does the water get in/light come on/squeak sound happen? Why do we need a switch on the torch/knob on the washing machine? Give your child thinking time to find the words they want to use to explain things. At an earlier stage of development, comment on how things work: the wheels go round on your car/let's use the switch to turn the lights on. And comment on things they're doing: You carefully put one brick on top of the other to make a tower!

Understanding and Speaking

My Favourite... - chat

with your child about something they really like. Do they have a favourite food, toy, place or colour? Take some photos of that favourite thing if you can, or collect items that are their favourite colour, or a picture of their favourite food from a packet or magazine. You could stick any pictures on some paper, in a notebook, or tape them to the wall. Or if they have a collection of actual items, you could make a little display on a low shelf or in an empty box. Use lots of language while you do this together, and give your child time to tell you about their favourite thing – why do they like it (taste, smell, texture), how does it make them feel (happy, safe, funny, full up!). Your child may want to show their favourite thing collection/display to another family member/friend – either in real life or via technology. At an earlier stage of development offer your child choices between two toys, two T shirts, two different coloured plates, so they can begin to show their preferences.

*Self Confidence and
Self Awareness*

Sharing – learning to share

can be tricky! Find lots of opportunities to practice sharing – whether it's offering a plate of biscuits to someone else, sharing space on the sofa, or deciding who will choose what to watch on TV. 'Passing' games are a good way to learn about sharing: you and your child, and others in your home, can sit together and pass something, it might be a ball, a pebble, a toy or even a word. Show your child how to gently pass the object or say the word to the person next to them. Keep going round until the object/word gets back to them. Or you and your child could collect some small toys in a bag or box and play a sharing game with them – either sharing them out between the two of you or offering a toy from the bag to other family members. Use lots of words related to generosity and gratitude: give, share, pass, kind, please, thank you. At an earlier stage of development, you may find your child offers you an object they are holding. This can turn into a little 'give and take' game, where you take the toy and say 'thank you', and then give it back to them, and then they pass it back to you!

*Managing Feelings and Behaviour
and Making Relationships*

Name game –

Explain to your child that you are going to tell a story about them, and that every time they hear their name they need to stand up and sit down again (for a calmer version ask them to put their hand up every time they hear their name). Your story can be very simple: Ameera went for a walk. It started to rain so Ameera put up her umbrella. Ameera saw a cat hiding under a bush. The cat came to say hello to Ameera... At a later stage of development, you could change the key word to a colour or a random silly word. For earlier stages of development, tell the story and use facial expression or clapping to help your child notice each time you say their name.

Listening and Attention



TAPESTRY
ONLINE LEARNING
JOURNAL

early years
f s f
foundation stage forum

