

Home Activities for Year 1-3 Children



These activities are not exclusively for children in Years 1-3 but are generally suitable for children at this age:

General Activities:

1. Cutting with scissors - very important skill for children. Cut out pictures from old magazines/newspapers. Make crafty things that require them to cut things out.
2. Create things with playdough – this is great for fine motor skills development. Can also make letters and numbers with playdough, or draw in sand pit, to practice getting them looking right.
3. Climbing objects/trees/etc for gross motor development and risk assessment. Challenged to try something difficult, assess how to safely do it but all the while an adult is there in case they try something too difficult.
4. Sport - throwing and catching different sized balls, kicking and hitting different sized balls, gymnastic type things like rolls, balancing on different parts of your body (2 elbows and 1 knee, 1 shoulder and 1 foot, etc), run a little obstacle course.
5. Learn a musical instrument, sing/dance to some favourite/current songs.
6. Do some puzzles, challenges, treasure hunts, etc.

Support your child to do something related to the school Values: *respect, responsibility, resilience, caring, co-operation, enthusiasm*

- Do an extra job at home to help mum/dad/brother/sister.
- Help make a meal for your family
- Do something new (e.g. try to tie your shoelaces, knitting, building, juggling, etc)
- Organise something for the family to do together
- Perform something to an audience (e.g. a recited poem, play, song, magic trick, etc)
- Organise for them to help an elderly person, a neighbour, in the garden, stacking the firewood/dishwasher, washing the car, etc
- Care for a pet
- Plant their own garden.

Maths activities:

1. Ask your child what they are doing in maths at school and try to use it in everyday life (e.g. fractions – what fraction of people in our family are children? What fraction of pizza is left/did you eat?) This gives them practise and shows them that maths relates to the 'real' world.
2. If your child is learning to count, count things together (e.g. number of stairs in a staircase, cars driving past). Look, read and count the numbers on letterboxes when going for a walk (this is great for skip counting 2, 4, 6, 0)
3. If your child is learning to add, add things (e.g. the number of knives on the table plus the number of forks, cost of items at the supermarket). Ask them questions like "how many more would I need to make 10?" Don't forget to subtract as well.

4. Listen to your child – ask them to explain how they found an answer. Expect your child to use different strategies to solve problems – ask “Is there another way you could solve this?”
5. Look for patterns/similarities to categorise in the natural environment (patterns in pathways, colour/size patterns in flowers, shoes, shells), shapes you see in windows, at the playground. Ask questions about what would be next to keep the pattern going.
6. <http://nzmaths.co.nz/student-sites> a website with links to many other websites for maths activities. Can vary widely in difficulty so do explore. Basically want only Level 1 or 2 activities

Some great contexts for maths are: Money – counting and calculating – pocket money, banking, shopping. Measuring – length, cooking ingredients. Travelling – reading numbers on signs, giving directions (Left/Right, clockwise/anticlockwise), timetables in TV guide, Games – Bingo, board games such as Snakes and Ladders, card games like Go Fish. (Try these games saying the numbers in Māori).

Literacy Activities:

1. Act out a well known story.
2. Draw a picture and the label things in the picture. When spelling get them to do what they are capable of (write the first sound, what else can you hear, what is the last sound, what letters make a shhh sound, etc)
3. Find the words in the paper or magazines
4. Cut out the letters and see how quickly your child can rearrange them in the correct order
5. Say speech rhymes and tongue twisters together
6. Play detective games with words – ask your child to be a detective and find: words that rhyme, begin/end with the same sound or letter, little words in big words (e.g. ‘am’ in ‘pyjamas’), words that sound the same but are spelt differently (e.g. ate, eight)
7. Play word games that focus on sounds of words (Scrabble, Boggle, Word Snap, I Spy, Hangman)
8. Write words in a bucket of sand
9. Make flashcards to help practise spelling words

For children who are strong in literacy:

- Write a short story that uses all of their weekly spelling words
- Make secret agent words by numbering the alphabet from 1-26 and then converting spelling words into a number code
- Make a crossword puzzle or word search from the words in the spelling list
- Try to find spelling words used in a newspaper or magazine article.