

74 FUN THINGS TO DO OUT OF SCHOOL

A list compiled by Unley Primary School students and families

So many of the things we do every day support children's learning.
Why not have a go at some of these activities at home?

PLAYING GAMES

- Play board games such as Upwords, Scrabble, Boggle Slam, Taboo, Scattegories, Appleletters and Bananagrams (great for literacy learning).
- Play numeracy card games such as Rummy, Uno and Solitaire.
- Try some other numeracy games such as Dominoes, Monopoly and dice games (good for subitising in Maths) and Mobi. Also, try some UPS favourites – Addition/Multiplication Bump, Land Grab and Times Tables Bingo (instructions on the school blog - unleyps.edublogs.org).
- Play cooperative games such as Forbidden Island, Pictionary or charades.
- Have a go at Sudoku or some puzzles, crosswords or word searches (even make your own for someone else).
- Try your hand at chess, draughts/checkers and backgammon (great strategy games, especially for older students). Sequence is also a fantastic strategy board game.
- Teach others how to play one of these games. Write instructions for someone else.
- Ask a grandparent or an older person how to play an old-fashioned game.
- Play memory games (check out the weblinks at the end of this document).
- Play Murder in the Dark, Spotlight or Hide and Seek.
- Make a scavenger hunt for someone else (can be done indoors/outdoors and could include clues).
- Try having an 'unplug' week where you don't use technology for a week.

READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING

- Create your own video for fun or to teach a skill or hobby. You may like to try Claymation.
- Make up your own stories and share them with others (try storytelling dice, eg. Story Cubes, or use your imagination). You could even make your own book.
- Talk about your fridge words (helps develop vocabulary - see unleyps.edublogs.org).
- Write a letter, postcard or email to a grandparent, relative, friend or penpal.
- Read for enjoyment – share stories and conduct research.
- Listen to poems/songs and create your own.
- Learn a language – teach a friend!
- Write a speech and tell your family what you're passionate about.



BUILDING AND CREATING

- Model with plasticine, clay or play dough (why not make your own?).
- Try beading, origami, French knitting, sewing and making paper planes – you could even hold a paper plane contest (all great activities for developing fine motor skills).
- Conduct your own Science projects at home, eg. make bubbles, volcanoes or tin foil boats.
- Build with Lego.
- Make a kite and test it out.
- Build structures with cards, plastic cups and other loose parts (look and see what's available in your recycling – great for imaginative play).
- Make pet rocks.
- Make birthday presents for family members or friends.
- Build a fort or cubby out of sheets and pillows.
- Make your own board game or puzzle.
- Make your own papier mâché and create something.
- Draw, paint or sketch.
- Try your hand at photography.
- Build a collection of something you're interested in (how will you organise it?).

PERFORMING

- Plan a show! Design costumes, practise and perform.
- Create puppets and put on a puppet show.
- Make up your own game or talent show. Why not try a Spelling Bee or Times Tables Quiz?
- Learn and perform magic tricks.
- Create your own instruments and make some music, or perform on an instrument you are learning.
- Write and perform a song.

HELPING

- Visit the shops – compile shopping lists, add up prices, work out the change, count out groceries (number skills).
- Do some cooking. Research and read recipes, weigh and measure ingredients.
- Cut up sandwiches, pizzas, cakes etc. into sections (supports understanding of fractions).
- Do the washing up! This can be an opportunity to discuss what sinks and floats.
- Learn to clean parts of the house.
- Find a way to help a neighbour or older person.
- Plan a family day out/holiday.
- Organise things to give to charity.



GETTING OUT AND ABOUT

- Walk to different local places – measure how far, how many steps, metres or kilometres.
- Collect signs of the seasons from nature (eg. autumn leaves, spring flowers).
- Research animals and insects in your local environment. Notice something in nature (eg. bees, plants or a water course) and create a 'noticing' journal – it could include writing and or pictures.
- Read a map - be a human GPS!
- Go geocaching.
- Read road signs and text in your local area.
- Check the weather forecast – try to describe the weather conditions.
- Visit the local library.
- Make mud pies, leaf people or mandalas using natural materials.
- Build cubbies or forts.
- Play hopscotch (draw out the grid with chalk), marbles or four square.
- Play a skipping game (supports counting and rhyming).
- Help with the gardening.
- Play with neighbours and friends.
- Look up at the clouds or climb a tree.
- Go for a bike ride.
- Go for a walk (walk the dog if you have one) and count different coloured cars – compete with a sibling if you can.
- Have a go at your favourite sport or physical pastime.

TINKERING

- Learn about the family car (e.g. checking oil, pumping up tyres to the right pressure, filling up water).
- Change a tyre.
- Help with DIY jobs.
- Replace a washer in a tap.
- Build a bird feeder.
- Whittle wood.
- Find something to pull apart and then put it back together.

USEFUL LINKS

- <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/literacy-and-numeracy/teaching-and-learning-resources/numeracy/resources/card-games>
- <https://natureplaysa.org.au/families/nature-play-downloads/>
- <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home>
- <https://www.youcubed.org/online-student-course/>
- <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading.html>
- <https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/memory-games>

This list has been compiled to complement the UPS Homework Policy. For more information, visit the UPS school website.

