



**Early Years**  
Northumberland

# Learning Together at Home eMagazine Supplement

March 2021

Information for parents and carers of children from birth to 5 years in Northumberland to support their learning at home

## Springtime Activities



## Seasonal Songs & Stories to Enjoy



# Parent Supplement

*Learning at home should not be over complicated, nor should it be a stressful experience. Children learn through everyday experiences, with adults who talk with them, read with them and enjoy playing together. Give them your time, put down your phone and enjoy the trying some of these spring themed ide-*



*Frogs and Frogspawn*

Perhaps you could consider a walk to a nearby pond. See if you can spot any frogspawn or tadpoles. Talk about and watch how tadpoles grow into frogs.

Go for a walk beside the river look to look for ducks and ducklings. Talk about where birds come from and their eggs. See how many different kinds of ducks you can see. Talk about which duck is the male and which one is the female and talk about the differences you can see between them.



*Spring Lambs*

Go for a walk and see if you can find any lambs. Talk to your child about the lamb, name their body parts, count their legs, talk about their woolly coats and how they will grow into sheep. Give them the names of the male (ram) and female (ewe). Draw and paint some lambs. You could use cotton wool to stick onto paper for the sheep wool or, if you're out walking see if you can pick up some sheep wool from the fencing to use on your pictures. Perhaps you could talk about how the wool feels, smells, looks compare the real wool to the cotton wool.



*Ducklings*

# Rhyme Time

*Learn these two rhymes together over the next few weeks. Singing them every day will be great for helping develop your child's early language and literacy skills. The actions (in brackets) in these songs help children to remember the words more easily*

## Two Little Dickie Birds

Two little dickie birds sitting on a wall, *(hold out index fingers on each hand in front of you and wiggle them to attract attention)*

One named Peter *(wiggle one index finger)*, one named Paul *(wiggle the other index finger)*

Fly away, Peter! *(hide the first index finger behind your back)* Fly away, Paul! *(hide the second finger behind your back)*

Come back, Peter! *(bring the first index finger in front again)* Come back, Paul! *(bring the second index finger in front again)*



## Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went swimming one day *(hold up 5 fingers)*

Over the hill and far away *(Move hand like a snake moving up and down)*

Mummy duck said: "Quack. Quack. Quack, Quack!" *(form hand like a beak, open and close beak fingers)*

And four little ducks came waddling back. *(hold up 4 fingers and move hand in a waddling motion)*

Four little ducks went swimming one day *(hold up 4 fingers)*

Over the hill and far away *(move hand like a snake moving up and down)*

Mummy duck said: "Quack. Quack. Quack, Quack!" *(form hand like a beak. Open and close beak fingers)*

And three little ducks came waddling back. *(hold up 3 fingers and move hand in a waddling motion)*

Repeat for three and then two little ducks

One little duck went swimming one day *(Hold up 1 finger)*

Over the hill and far away. *(Move hand like a snake moving up and down.)*





# Activity Ideas

## Grow Cress

You will need an empty container, cotton wool, cress seeds and water.

1. Put cotton wool inside the container.
2. Place cress seeds on the top.
3. Water the cress seeds well.
4. Place on a windowsill.
5. Remember to water them regularly.
6. Look out for them germinating and growing—maybe even take a photo each day to track their progress.
7. After about 15-20 days the cress is ready to cut. Why not make some delicious egg and cress sandwiches for your lunch?



## Chocolate Nests

You will need 200g milk chocolate broken into pieces, 85g shredded wheat crushed, 2x100g bags mini chocolate eggs, 12 cupcake cases

1. Melt the chocolate in a small bowl placed over a pan of barely simmering water or, you can melt the chocolate in a microwave. Talk to your child about what is happening to the chocolate as it melts.
2. Pour the chocolate over the shredded wheat and stir well to combine.
3. Spoon the chocolate wheat into 12 cupcake cases and press the back of a teaspoon in the middle to make a nest shape.
4. Put 3 mini chocolate eggs on top of each nest, encouraging your child to count them.
5. Chill the nests in the fridge for 2 hrs until the chocolate has set.

# Picture Books to Share

