

Toys and Games

Home Learning Pack

Included in this pack:

- Reading practice – How to make a pin wheel
- Writing task – adverts
- Design and make activity
- Toys from the past activity
- Daily journal

This home learning pack is designed for children in years 3 to 6 (ages 8–11) to complete, with some adult support where possible, over a week. This pack contains fun, engaging opportunities to develop and practise reading and writing skills that can be completed within a child's home environment, based around the topic of 'Toys and Games'. Activity sheets are provided – but if you do not have access to a printer, all activities could be completed using any paper or writing books that you have at home.

For teachers' reference, the pack covers these key curricular skills:

Reading

- to apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes, to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words that they meet;
- to check that a text makes sense to them, answering questions including using inference.

Writing

- to compose and rehearse sentences orally before writing (years 3/4);
- to identify the audience and purpose for writing (years 5/6).

History

- to learn about changes in aspects of social history (toys and games)

Design technology

- to investigate and analyse a range of existing products;
- select from, and use, a wider range of tools and equipment, materials and components;
- evaluate their ideas and products against design criteria.

A week's worth of activities are described on the next pages, with helpful information for adults explaining how to use these resources with your child. They are designed to be as fun, practical and creative as possible – nurturing children's natural curiosity, developing their literacy skills, and keeping learning lively!

Activities

Reading Practice – How to make a pin wheel

Read the text ‘**How to make a pinwheel**’ with your child and discuss what type of text this is (instructions). Would they like to make one?

Ask your child to answer the questions, referring back to the text when needed.

Writing Task – My toy advert

Look at magazine and online adverts for toys, or look in shop windows if you are able. Talk about how these persuade people to buy the toys, and discuss the language that is used. Your child could make a note of anything they notice on the **worksheet** provided or this could be discussed. (Note: persuasive writing is emotive, using powerful language to persuade. In this case it should be positive language – e.g. magnificent, superb, educational. Positive images of the toy being played with, competitive price etc will all help to persuade.)

Using adverts that you have found as inspiration, your child should then design a magazine advert for a toy. This could be a toy that they already have, or one that they have made in the **design and make** activity. They could use paper, or perhaps a computer, to create their persuasive advert.

Design and make

Ask your child to think about simple toys that a young child may use (such as the pin wheel in the **reading practice**). Using the **research, design, make and evaluate** sheets, your child will be guided through the design process to create their own toy. They will need to research toys, design, make then evaluate their finished product. Images of simple mechanical toys are included in the pack, to help with research.

Simple mechanical toys can be made using card and paper, or your child might choose to use the instructions from the reading practice to make a pinwheel.

Toys from the past

Talk about toys from the past with your child. What toys do they play with that you also played with as a child and how have they changed over time?

Look at the images on the ‘**toys from the past**’ **worksheet**. Does your child know what these toys are? (trike, doll, rocking horse, mechanical monkey, spinning top, roller skate)

Ask your child to complete the table, thinking about the age of the children who would have used these and how they would have been played with. Are there modern versions of the toy available today? Talk about how toys have changed over the decades. Your child should then choose one toy to write about in detail.

Daily journal

Encourage your child to write everyday by completing this **daily journal**. It asks them to think about the toys and games that they have played with each day, including those used outside.

Activities

Other activities for children to try

- Write instructions for how to use toys and games in your home.
- Play different games as a family. What board games do you have?
- Invite your child to create games that they could play. Perhaps it could be an active game that could be played outside or a board game based on a topic that they enjoy.
- Interview other family members about toys that they played with when they were young. Are there any that are still played with today?
- Develop art skills by sketching one of their favourite toys.
- Explore toys for young children and the mechanisms that they use (wheels, sliders etc). Could they make a toy using one of these mechanisms?
- Create other adverts for toys. Could they use technology to film a TV advert?