

### Don't Worry, Be Happy!!

Who do wish you could see? I'm sure there are some special people you are really missing at the moment.

Could you make a 'mini-me' of your children's friends? If you have any photographs, cut them out, stick them onto cardboard and then attach them to a something so that they can stand up. Now you can play with your friends again! If you haven't got any photographs, draw a picture of them.





FAMILY I CAN'T

SEE...

MINI ME

### WHAT IS A MINI ME?

A mini me is a small version of

Usually a photograph that has been printed, laminated and stuck to something that will help it to stand up.

Lots of Early Years settings use mini mes of children (and staff) to add into play. The children

Why not make some with your child of the family they are not seeing at the moment?

### WHAT TO DO:

- Find a photo of the person you are going to make 'mini'
- Print it out
- Cut around their outline
- Laminate it (if you have a fancy laminator!) or...stick it onto some cardboard (like the back of a cereal
- Glue or tape your mini me to something like a small bottle, yoghurt pot, small box...anything to help it to stand up. - PLAY!

Do the same thing for family members. This way, nan and grandad can join you at the tea table!



### Old toys – new ideas!

We have been at home a long time now. I hope you aren't getting bored! We all have favourite toys but can you think of some different games to play with the toys you have already got?



### What you need:

- Dinosaurs
- Elastic bands or loom bands

### What you do:

- Use the elastic bands to tie around the dinosaurs (or other objects) then try and free them. This will support your child's fine motor skills.

- You could tie up your toy animals or dinosaurs and see how long it takes you to rescue them!
- Ask somebody to hide your animals and give you clues to find them again.
- On a sunny day, use your toys to draw shadow pictures.

# Shadow Drawing

Make the most of the sun and explore light and shadows.

Place your object of choice on your paper and use it as a guide to trace the outline.



Aidan Slinn

## Create a home school!



Invite a range of toys to attend school/nursery for the session. Allow the child to plan the session in advance if age appropriate. Encourage familiar routines such as welcome, storytime, snack, singing, and direct teaching! Suggest the 'teacher' shares what they know with their class, eg numbers, colours, letters, stories.

This is a good way of creating familiar role play, which will encourage feelings of security and safety. Also good for confidence building.

Carolyn Gorham

If you are missing nursery, set up your own school or nursery with your toys. Sing your favourite songs.

Can you pretend to be the teacher? What words or phrases does your key-worker usually say to you?



### **Making tracks**

Here are some ideas for games you can play with your toy cars and trains.



Use masking tape to make a track for your cars on the floor or on a table. If you've got chalk, you could draw a track on the floor outside.



You could even tape a pencil or a crayon to the back of your cars and use them to make tracks.



These activities are all from Alistair Bryce-Clegg's website https://abcdoes.com/home-learning



### Song of the Week – Don't Worry, Be Happy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWXUWepSak4

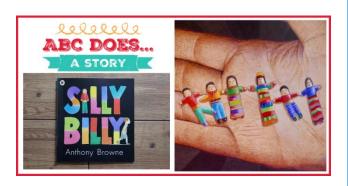
Watch this song sung by children from around the world. You could dance as they sing and join in with the chorus. This will definitely make you feel happy!

You could also sing 'If You're Happy and you Know It' with Mr. Tumble

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSdb5wrDHnU

## Story of the Week Silly Billy by Anthony Browne

https://youtu.be/deAMIYyzKPk





-small sticks or twigs

- felt tip pens

- wool, ribbon or thread

What are

Break your sticks or twigs into small lengths (about 5cms). - Wrap different colours of wool, ribbon or thread around your stick (use a skin colour towards the top for a face). Tie off the ends. - Felt tip a face onto your doll.

I know you will love this story read by Alistair Bryce-Clegg

After the story, follow the instructions on the video to make a worry doll to put under your pillow at night.

## Have fun playing and learning together!

Early Learners Team