



Warm spaces resources

We are delighted to provide you with these free resources that you can use as part of your warm space. They are flexible in that they are all activities that can be done in your building, or alternatively, families can take them home and enjoy them there. Please use them as you are able.

How to use these resources

The resources contained in this pack have been selected as they are family-friendly and easy-to-facilitate activities. They are a fun way for families to gather together and for parents to have fun with their children. Additionally, they can provide a great opportunity for you and your volunteers to connect with local families and build relationships.

The resources have been designed to be print-friendly, so we recommend you print them out and cut along the dotted lines to separate the resources out - this way, families will be able to pick and choose which activities they want to do/take home.

Introducing Kids Matter

At Kids Matter, we have a simple vision. We want to see every child in need raised in a strong family, where no child is written off simply because of the circumstances they are in.

We exist because parenting is hard, and can often be even harder for mums, dads and carers who are facing disadvantages. Poverty significantly impacts a parent's ability to manage stressful situations and can make good family functioning and strong parent-child relationships difficult, ultimately affecting child wellbeing.

Our highly effective, evidence-informed parenting programmes are accessible to families facing disadvantages, equipping them with confidence, competence and community, enabling their children to thrive. Peer facilitators (who are parents themselves) from local churches undergo our accredited training to deliver Kids Matter programmes in their communities and continue those relationships long after the programme has ended.

The need is great (now, more than ever) but if we work together, each and every one of us can participate in building a better future for our children, our families and our society.

Find out more

If you'd like to find out more about our work you can visit our website at kidsmatter.org.uk. Alternatively, if you'd like to have a conversation about how you could partner with us, then email Catherine Clayton, our Partnership Engagement Lead on cc@kidsmatter.org.uk. We'd love to meet you!

Washing line games

Resources

String or wool, pegs, paper and pens, scissors

Preparation

String up a washing line between chairs / door handles or similar.
Write letters and numbers on paper and cut up.

How to play

Encourage children to:

- Peg out numbers 1 – 10
- Peg out the alphabet
- Peg out their name
- Unjumble their name or numbers 1-10 by rearranging letters on the line.

Phone scavenger hunt

Resources

Smart phone

Preparation

Adult to take photos of 10 unusual things in the room you're in. Be creative - take a photo of a table leg or a small section of a picture so it's hard to see what it is from the photo.

How to play

Show the children the photos and let them hunt out where you took the picture from! When they've found them all let them take pictures for you to find too.

Teddy bears' picnic

Resources

Teddy bears, toys and any plates, cups, cutlery that you can find, as well as paper and pens

Preparation

Gather the toys and tea things.

How to play

Young children can set up a picnic on the floor, and then invite their toys by drawing and delivering an invitation. Encourage imaginative play by serving invisible food and cups of tea to the guests.

Junk puzzles



Resources

Clean dry cardboard with pictures on – cereal boxes or old birthday cards are ideal and scissors.

Preparation

Adult to cut the picture into pieces to create a puzzle that can be put back together. Size and number of pieces according to age of children.

How to play

Enjoy putting the puzzles back together. Turn it into a game of hide and seek by hiding the puzzle pieces around the room first.

Den building



Resources

Blankets, cushions, sheets. Book and torch if available.

Preparation

Gather the den building materials.

How to play

Get making! Create a cosy den out of whatever materials you have e.g. two chairs and a blanket or a sheet hanging over a table. Encourage your child to design and build the den while you help. When made, climb inside and read a book together by torch light.

Throw and catch



Resources

Soft ball or something soft to use instead – balled socks or gloves will work well.

Preparation

None.

How to play

Throw and catch then mix it up! Try these variations:

- Count how many catches you can do without dropping
- Stand on one leg if you drop the ball
- Shout out names of fruit (or choose something else) each time you catch the ball, no repeating or pausing!
- Throw the ball up and clap your hands before catching. How many claps can you do?

Upside down drawing



Resources

Paper, pens and tape.

Preparation

Tape paper to the underside of a low table or chair.

How to play

Lay down on the floor and draw upside down! You could draw the night sky, trees or anything you like.

Upside down faces



Resources

None.

Preparation

None.

How to play

Lie on a sofa or chair and tip upside down. Ask adults to focus on your chin and start telling them a joke. Your chin and mouth will look very funny upside down when you talk!

Postperson



Resources

Toys and pens, paper, old envelopes

Preparation

Place toys in their 'houses' around the room you're in.

How to play

Children can draw a picture or write a short message to a toy and then deliver it to the toy. Adults can make this more fun by writing a message back from the toys too!

Would you rather?



Resources

None.

Preparation

None.

How to play

Mark out two spaces in the room you're in. Read out the would you rather questions and the children answer by running to the right space. Make up as many questions as you like!

- Would you rather swim to the bottom of the ocean or fly into space?
- Would you rather I give you a hug or tell you you're amazing?
- Would you rather be able to fly or be invisible?
- Would you rather I did an impression of a dog or an elephant? Make sure you then do the impression!
- Would you rather be able to eat only chocolate or only chips?
- Would you rather play a game or have a big cuddle?
- Would you rather shoot spaghetti out of your fingers or sneeze sweets?
- Would you rather have a unicorn horn or a squirrel tail?
- Would you rather dance or sing?
- Would you rather play a game with me or have me help you tidy your room?
- Would you rather be able to jump as far as a kangaroo or hold your breath as long as a whale?

Conversation starters for children



Resources

None.

Preparation

None.

How to play

Each person picks a number and you read aloud the question and they answers it. Or just remember a few of these to use in conversation.

1. What was the best part of today?
2. What's one thing you learned today?
3. Who's your favourite teacher and why?
4. What's the best thing about your teacher/friend/school?
5. If you could change one thing about school, what would it be?
6. What's the funniest thing you saw today?
7. Tell me about one thing you're really proud of this week.
8. Describe the plot/characters in your favourite TV show/video game.
9. If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?
10. What is your favourite place to be? And why?
11. What is your favourite memory of being ... years old? Then share yours of them that age.
12. What's the hardest thing about being a child?

Conversation starters for adults

Resources

None.

Preparation

None.

How to play

Each person picks a number and you read aloud the question and they answers it. Go first to set the tone - fun and light. Or just remember a few of these to use in conversation.

1. How would a good friend describe you?
2. How would you spend an hour that you had all to yourself?
3. What is your favourite film/box set?
4. If you could go anywhere on holiday where would it be?
5. What was your favourite subject at school?
6. What is your favourite item of clothing?
7. What's your favourite season of the year and why?
8. What are you grateful for?
9. What's your favourite meal of the day and why?
10. What's the best present someone has given you?
11. What was your favourite toy as a child?
12. What makes you laugh?
13. What is your favourite cake?
14. Do you prefer chocolate or crisps?
15. What's the funniest thing you've seen online recently?
16. What do you wish someone taught you a long time ago?