

COVID-19

Play2Learn@Home for Pre-primary: A Guide for Families When Pre-primary in Your School is Required to Learn at Home

Public Health has directed school, including pre-primary to learn at home for one week beginning January 10 to January 15, 2022.

Below is information about what this will mean for your child and family.

What will happen?

Play2Learn@Home will bring pre-primary to your child while she/he/they is at home. Children learn through play both at school and at home. You, their early childhood educators (ECEs), and other children help them grow and learn through play. **Play2Learn@Home** will support your child and you in their learning through play at home.

Your child's ECE will create an opportunity each day to connect with your child. In addition, the ECE's will send various activities throughout the week to help your child learn at home when they are not connected on-line. ECEs will continue to build welcoming and nurturing relationships with you and your child to support children to be the best 4 years olds they can be! ECEs will offer a daily virtual activity; this may be a story read aloud, a circle time, or another engaging activity.

Your child will have the chance to participate in intentional play at home based on *Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum Framework* and guided by their ECE. Your child's ECE will talk with you about play-based learning and suggest ways your child can learn with the materials sent home.

You can participate in everything your ECE offers or not. Your child will continue to learn and develop during this time. Your ECE will work with you to find the best way for your child to be engaged and what fits your family. It is up to you to find the best fit for you, your child and your family.

How will I explain to my child why they are not going to school?

We know that children's reactions to changes in their world can be influenced by how we talk about them. Some children may ask questions about what is happening, and others won't – either way is okay.

It is okay for children to be upset or sad because they won't see their friends or go to school. Answer these questions honestly, talk about how they can continue to be involved with their friends and ECEs, even if it will be different.

Your ECE will help your child understand when they talk with you and your child.

Is there anything I can do at home to support my child with learning beyond what the ECE has arranged?

Yes! You are your child's most important teacher. Attached is an activity sheet of fun activities you may want to do with your child. Remember, the most important thing is to have fun.

Play2Learn@Home – Winter Wonders



Here are some activities that young children can play at home which support a range of their developmental areas. When choosing, think about your child's interests, your space, what you have available and what will work for you. If it doesn't work, no problem! Choose another activity or plan for another day. You can cut this out, place it on the fridge and during the time at home, use it when you need a new idea. Check off when you have completed something and add a heart next to the ones your child liked and wants to do again. If you have older children, ask them to choose and organise for their younger sibling.

Play2Learn@Home Winter Wonders

READ, READ, READ: Find a book to share with your child. Any book will do, find the joy of escape and adventure. Create a favourites list as you read.	EYE SPY WITH A TWIST: Encourage children to find something to eye spy beginning with the letter T? Switch up and change the letters each day.	BUILD A COZY CORNER: Create a quiet cozy space for children to relax in. A long tablecloth over a small table creates space underneath for children. Or use a corner in the room with a sheet over a couple of chairs. Add books, rugs and comfy cushions if you can.
PLAY IN THE SNOW: Everyone can bundle up and go out to build snowpeople – ask them what we need, how do we make this one bigger, how many balls of snow will we need? Let children think, suggest and create, there is no right or wrong snowpeople!	GO FOR A WALK IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD: Each day try to find different numbers and letters on the walk. Look at decorations and vote for your favourites	WRITE, WRITE, WRITE: Provide any writing materials you have and different paper. Write thank you cards to the people with the decorations and lights you love the most. Keep a journal of your winter adventures.
PHONE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE: Plan to call a friend or relative, talk first about what you may want to share with them or ask them. Then make the call.	HIDE AND SEEK: Play a game of hide and seek, talk about safe spaces to hide and maybe use a timer to help your child count.	PLAY CHARADES: Give your child an animal or a favourite character to act out. Each person has two guesses. The person who guesses goes next.