



BABIES & TODDLERS

From birth to pre-school



Newsletter #4

Did you have a happy Easter?

How many Easter eggs have you eaten?

Oooh, really – *too many!!*

I thought this week I'd suggest a craft activity that is always good fun.

MAKING A COLLECTION BOX

1) Use wrapping paper (or any coloured paper or pages from magazines) to cover a shoebox (or you could use an empty tissue box).

Adults can cut the paper to size and children will enjoy helping to glue in place. Y

You could personalise by putting the child's name on the lid or side of the box.

2) You will need to make counters – smooth pebbles are great (use nail varnish to paint a number on each one).

Or you could make counters from circles of card, draw a number on each one and glue thick string or wool to follow the outline of the number. *(Very young children's brains work in 3D rather than two dimensions, and being able to feel the shape of the number will help them learn to recognise and recall the number.)*

Adjust the counters according to their stage of development, starting with 1,2 & 3 before moving on to 4,5 and so on.

Games to play with your collection box

Outside (in the garden or park, if safe to do so)

Child holds the box, adult puts a counter in the box and gives an instruction, e.g . "Can you find 1 flower?" or "Can you find 3 leaves"

or “Can you find 2 feathers?” Adjust according to what is available in your outdoor space.

Let your child go off to hunt for each item(s) before returning for a new instruction.

Inside

This time, the instruction could be “Can you find 1 beaker?” or “Can you find 2 spoons?” or “Can you find 3 crayons?”

Why not take photos of any crafts or cooking that you do and upload to our Facebook page? We'd love to see what you've made!

Why not make a cup of coffee, find a comfy place to sit and take a break while they rush around hunting for the objects? A little reward at the end of the game is always appreciated.

Sing a counting rhyme (“5 Little Ducks Went Swimming” or “5 Fat Sausages”) to add to the fun.

The box can also be used to find pairs of objects to help learn the concept of “the same”, or for sorting items into different colour groups (you could use Duplo bricks or crayons).

NONSENSE VERSE

In these difficult times, I recommend Edward Lear’s “The Quangle Wangle’s Hat” for wonderful silliness! There’s a version on You Tube, using Helen Oxenbury’s illustrations – great fun!

COLOURING

There is more colouring for you on the next page. Use raisins (or other dried fruit) to give the clowns their juggling balls, before you eat the answers!

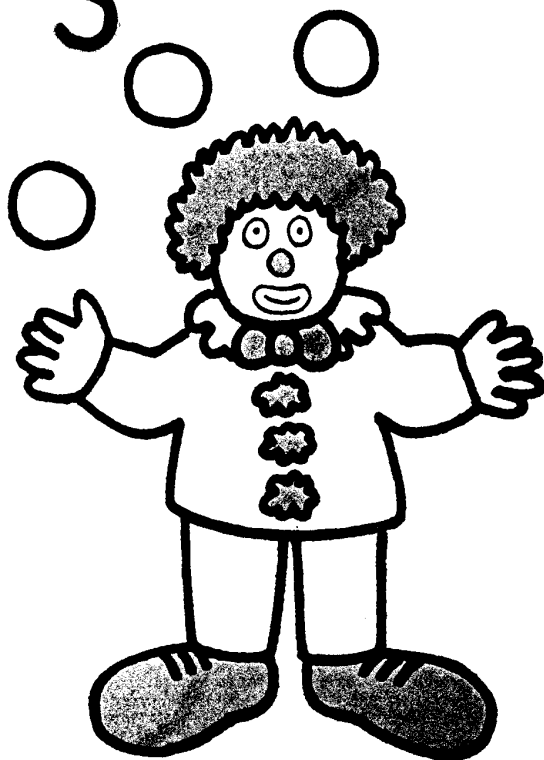
Stay safe and healthy

Best wishes from Sara and Wendy

Contact Sara on 01386 710776 for more information

Give each clown the correct number of raisins.

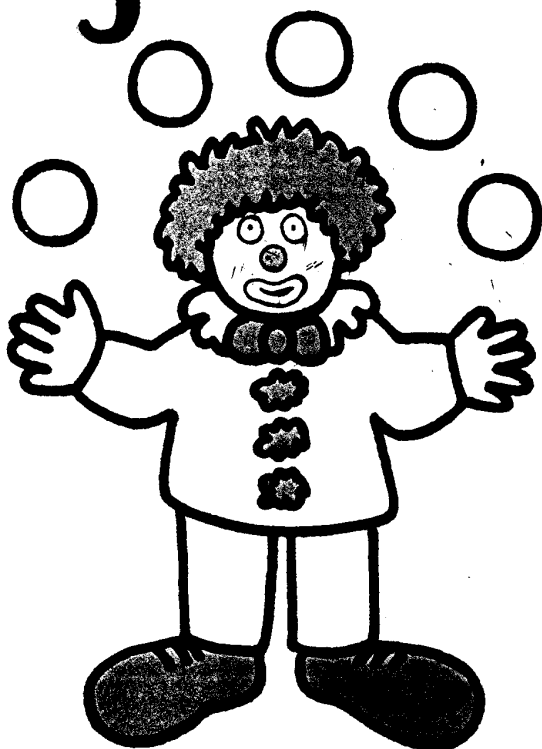
3



4



5



Now eat the answers!