

Coming to School



COULTER PRIMARY
A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE STRIVES TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE

The core values for our school community are:-
Responsibility, Courage, Equality, Respect and Honesty

Primary 1 Handbook



EDUCATION RESOURCES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Tony McDaid

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Website: www.coulter-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

We realise that the run-up to your child coming to school is often an anxious and confusing one. With this in mind, we have produced this booklet to provide some useful information on this subject, and hopefully reassure those of you who feel nervous about your child taking those next steps in their education.

We try to create a happy, relaxed atmosphere within the school and hope that you will feel free to approach any of the staff with any queries you may have.

We hope your child has a smooth, happy transition into school and thrives on the new experience.

We look forward to seeing you both.

Jill Kennedy

Head Teacher



Things to know about the school:

I start on Thursday 13th August 2020.

I start at 9.00am and finish at 3pm.

I will meet these people in school:

The Head Teacher is Mrs Kennedy.



The Principal Teacher is Miss Williams.



Mrs Duffy,



Mrs Venerus



and Mrs Shilliday
also teach in our school.



The Team Leader is Mrs Purkiss



The Support Assistants are Mrs Stark,

Ms O'Neill



Mrs Henderson



Mrs McMorrow is our
Caretaker/Cleaner



Ms Smith is our Cook



What class will your child be in?



At Coulter Primary School, we have two classes, P1-4 and P5-7. P1-4 come into school by the pupil rear entrance, have named pegs and desks, and are gradually introduced to class routines such as hanging up coats, handing in homework and choosing their lunch.

Do children take a play piece/snack?

Most children bring a snack to have at morning break. Please don't send 3 or 4 things - time is short and tummies small. A bottle of water should be sent daily with your child. Refills are offered after lunch.



Do you have playground supervisors?

We have playground supervisors at break time and lunch time, who deal with any minor scrapes and bumps.



What does my child need to take to school?

While children often feel the need to bring toys etc. for security at the start of school, we try to discourage this after a short time. Not only does having their own toys discourage exploration of their new environment, but "precious" things can go missing, causing upset at home or bedtime.

A gym bag with shorts, T-shirt, socks etc. is another essential, and if you are worried about messy activities then an old shirt or apron would be great! Please try to avoid shirts and school ties on PE days, as buttons are tricky for small fingers! Tying back long hair is encouraged. Gym bags can be left in school. You will be notified in August about your child's PE times.

Remember to put your child's name on everything. That way you know it's your own you get back!





How will I know what goes on at school?

Keep updated with everything that is going on in our school by:



1. **Joining our private Fb group** - Please complete consent form if you want to be part of the group.



2. **Downloading the school app** - Please contact Tracey in the school office for further information/support.

Children who start school are notoriously silent about what they do all day. When asked, they say, "I just played". So how do you find out more?

There will be a meeting arranged early in the session to tell you about the curriculum, i.e. reading, numeracy, literacy, play etc.

There will be two Parents' Nights during the session, when you have an individual interview with your child's teacher. There is also a Curriculum Open Afternoon, when you will have the opportunity to learn with your child.

We operate a system of parent helpers so, if you're available, you may get a chance to help out in class. A letter will be sent out at start of the new term.

If all else fails, we're only a phone call or email away, so let your fingers do the walking!



What if my child is ill?

If children appear unwell in the morning, please DON'T send them to school (no matter how they protest), as often they become unwell and distressed if sick in class.

If a child becomes unwell at school, we will phone firstly mum/dad and then, if they are not available, the nominated emergency contact, whose name and phone number will be asked for at the start of term. In cases involving sickness/diarrhoea, we have been advised that children should be kept at home for 48 hours after the last episode has stopped, to stop the spread of infection. We would appreciate your co-operation in this, as staff and children can fall prey to these bugs.

Any illness should be reported to the school. More information can be found on:

http://www.coulter-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/documents/exclusion_guide.pdf

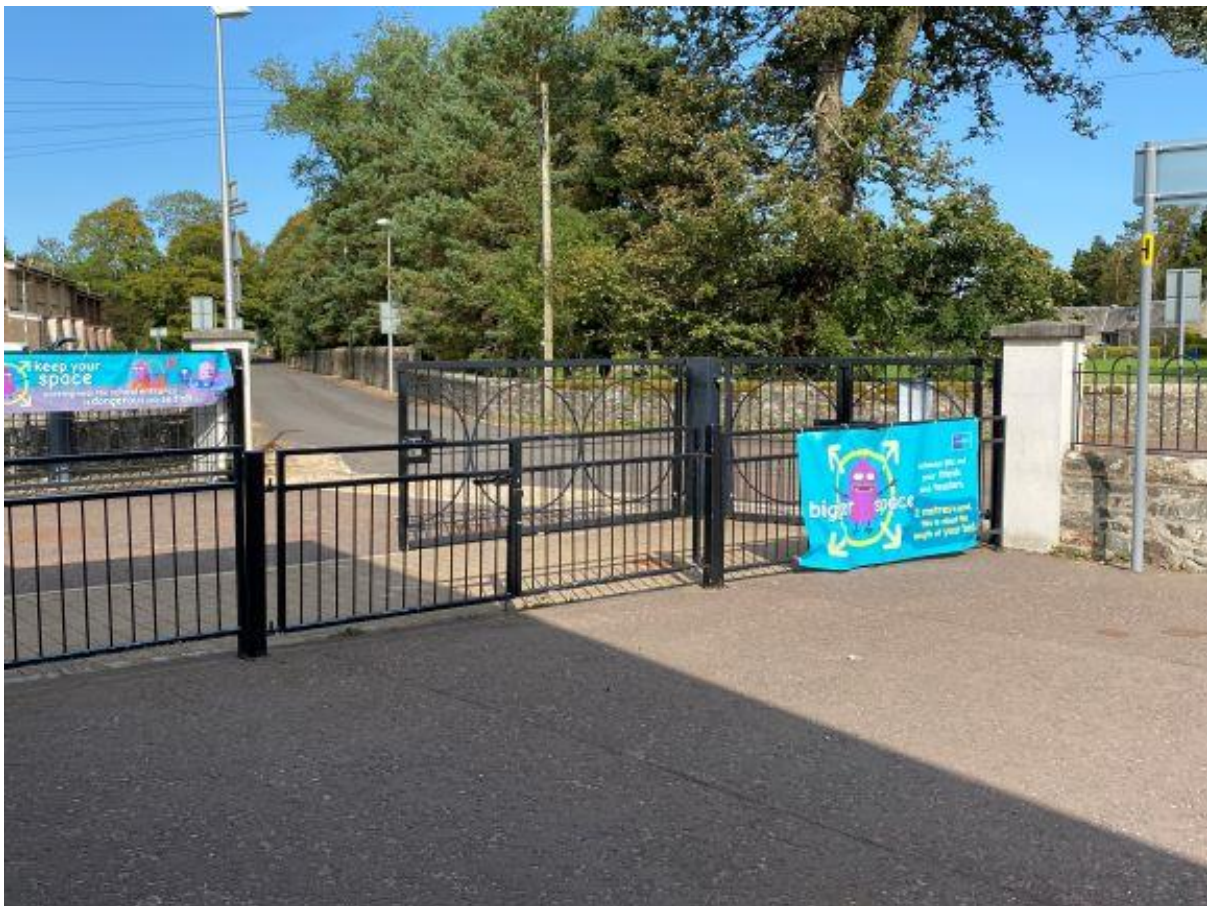


Please note that we can't administer medication to your child unless you have completed a medicine consent form. If you wish your child to self-administer any medication, we now also need a form completed. Forms can be requested from the office or downloaded from the website.

What are the school times?

School starts:	9.00am
Playtime:	10.30 - 10.45am
Lunchtime:	12.15 - 1.00pm
Finish:	3.00pm

If you are dropping off / collecting your child by car, please park in the Village Hall car park and pick them up at the main gate.



What about lunch?

Our school is cashless. All payments, e.g. school meals, are managed through ParentPay. You will receive an activation letter when your child starts school. You can manage multiple child accounts from the one login.

<https://www.parentpay.com/>

There are two lunch options: either a packed lunch prepared at home or a school meal. Meals are free for P1-3 pupils. P4-7 pay £1.70 per day. Milk is also available but must be pre-booked via ParentPay and costs 20p. The lunches, which are cooked on the premises, provide several well-balanced choices daily and are both delicious and great value. Menus are sent home twice a year so that children can choose meals with your help.

Menus can also be found on the School App.

Breakfast Club is open from 8.15am.

Children can also go home for lunch.





What about school buses?

Children who live in the school catchment area are entitled to free transport. Privileged passes are sometimes granted for children who live outside the catchment area. Children must only travel on their designated bus and be dropped off at their designated drop off.

- **Taxi Information**

Contract
Classic Cars, Symington

We are very keen to see that your child's journey to and from school is happy and safe. **Please let the driver know if your child is absent or if they will not be returning home by taxi.** Pupil behaviour is the responsibility of the parent/guardian whilst travelling on school transport.

If your child is having problems on the taxi, let the school know and we will do all we can to sort things out.

Contacts

Education Support Services
South Lanarkshire Council
Education Resources
Council Offices
Almada Street
Hamilton
ML3 0AE

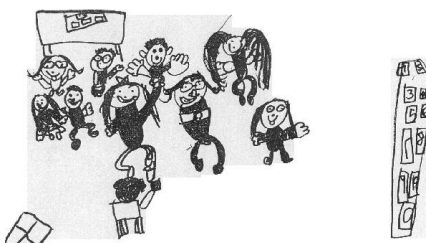
01698 454102

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)
131 St Vincent Street
Glasgow
G2 5JF

0141 333 3360

Complaints can be recorded online at :-

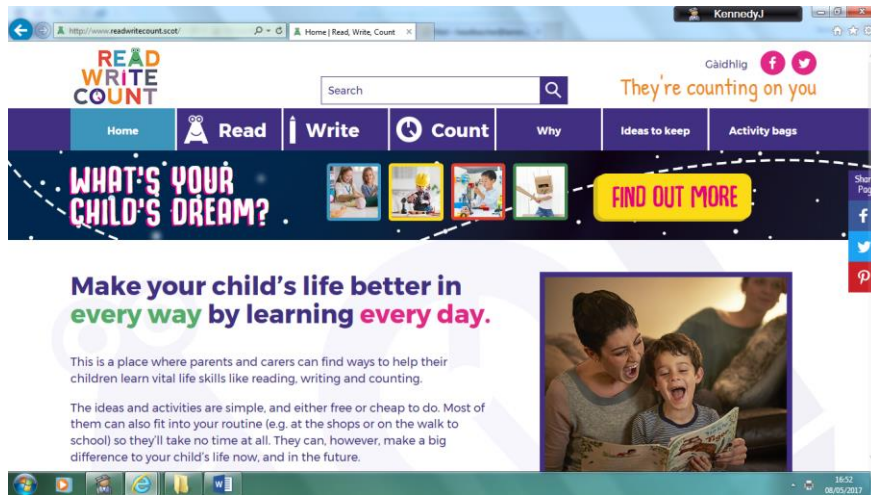
<http://www.spt.co.uk/corporate/about/our-services/subsidised-bus-services/schools-transport-complaint-form/>



Important things I will learn at school.

Visit the website below for lots of ideas on how you can support your child with learning.

<http://www.readwritecount.scot/>



I'll learn to read.

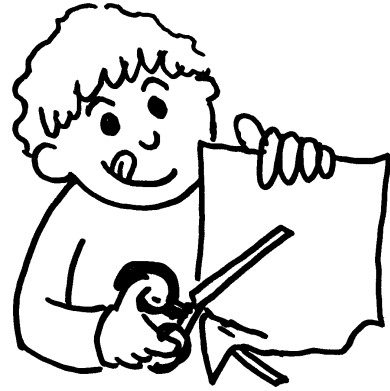
There are lots of things I can do at home which will help me read when I'm in Primary One. I can:

- look at books
- tell you stories
- listen to stories
- talk about pictures
- play guessing games
- listen to sounds in words
- play remembering games
- listen and copy
- play 'I Spy'
- play rhyme games etc.

I'll learn how to write.

There are lots of things I can do at home to help my fingers learn to write. I can:

- thread beads
- build with bricks
- stick with glue
- fasten buttons and zips
- do crayon drawing
- cut out with scissors
- help make pastry
- create with plasticine



I'll learn how to count.

There are lots of things I can do at home which will help me. I can:

- pair up socks or shoes
- sing number songs
- put packets in order of size
- match up forks and knives
- play games like snap, ludo, dominoes
- sort out big tins and little tins



A Message for Mums, Dads, Grannies, Grandpas, Uncles, Aunts, Carers and Grown Up Friends.

You could help him/her to do these activities, spending perhaps just ten minutes talking to him/her about what he/she is doing.

Encourage him/her to hold the pencil or crayon firmly in the tripod grip.

Like this.....



Encourage him/her to colour in the pictures carefully.

Ask him/her to practise writing their name. **Please use attached sheet to help your child write their name and form their letters correctly.**

Listening and Talking

Before your child can begin learning to read, he/she must have plenty of chances to hear other people talking and reading to him/her.

If parents read to their children, the children will learn to enjoy books.



Things to Use

Old magazines, comics, travel brochures and leaflets, children's books from the library

Scrap book, blunt-ended scissors, paste, pens or crayons, jigsaws with large pieces, tapes of children's stories



Words to Use

book, page, letter, word, picture, title, cover, news, newspaper, photographs, magazine, comic, leaflet, open, turn over, again, talking, speaking, asking, answer, reply, tell, story, shout, whisper



Things to do

Look at picture books with your child. Let him/her name the objects he/she knows and tell him/her the names of new things. Tell him/her the start of a familiar story and let him/her finish. Help him/her to cut out pictures from old magazines and stick them into a scrapbook. Write the name of the object underneath using **small letters**, not capitals. Ask your child to tell you things in order, such as the things he/she has done during the day.

When you ask your child questions, help him/her to give a full reply instead of one or two words.

When you can, buy books for your child and teach him/her how to treat them carefully.

Teach your child songs and nursery rhymes.

Read a bedtime story to him/her as often as possible. After reading a story, go through the pages again. Perhaps he/she will be able to give you the outline of the story.



Maths

You may be surprised how many maths activities a child meets every day. Maths is more than counting: it includes weight, length, height, capacity, time, shape, size, money. Maths is everywhere.



Things to Use

buttons, packets, tins, toys, bricks, shells, sweets, money, stones, the washing, the shopping, funnels, containers, yoghurt cartons



Words to Use

heavy, light, full, empty, large, small, tall, short, long, size, much, enough, match, sort, set, numbers, how full? how many? how much? where?



Things to do

Point out numbers anywhere you see them.

Show your child a blue item and ask him/her to find something the same colour.

Let him/her sort things into different colours.

Ask him/her whether he/she is taller or shorter than other people.

Draw round your hand and your child's hand. Which is bigger? longer? wider?

Let him/her fill and pour from one container to another.

Count how many small containers fill a large one.

Let your child help you to set the table.

Count things together - shells, sweets.

Play simple games of snap and dominoes.

Let him/her buy his/her own treats and help with the shopping.

Show him/her a clock and let him/her move the hands round.



Drawing and Painting

Using pencils, crayons, brushes and felt pens helps a child to develop the use of his/her senses and the skill in using his/her hands which he/she will need for writing.



Things to Use

pencils, crayons, felt pens, coloured pencils, chalk, paints, large brushes, water pot, large pieces of paper, coloured paper, gummed paper, newspaper, blunt-ended scissors, dough, plasticine, old magazines, old catalogues, boxes, yoghurt pots, scrap book

Words to Use

picture, model, painting, mixing, drawing, moulding, cutting out, sticking, colouring, outline, scribble, pattern, stripes, spots, wet, dry, rough, smooth, sticky, light, dark, shiny, dull



Things to do

Let your child draw or paint a picture of his/her choice.

Help your child to make up a story and ask him/her to paint pictures to go with it.

Make models of characters from favourite stories.

Make paper hats for parties.

See how you can mix paints to make new colours.

Paint cereal boxes or yoghurt pots.

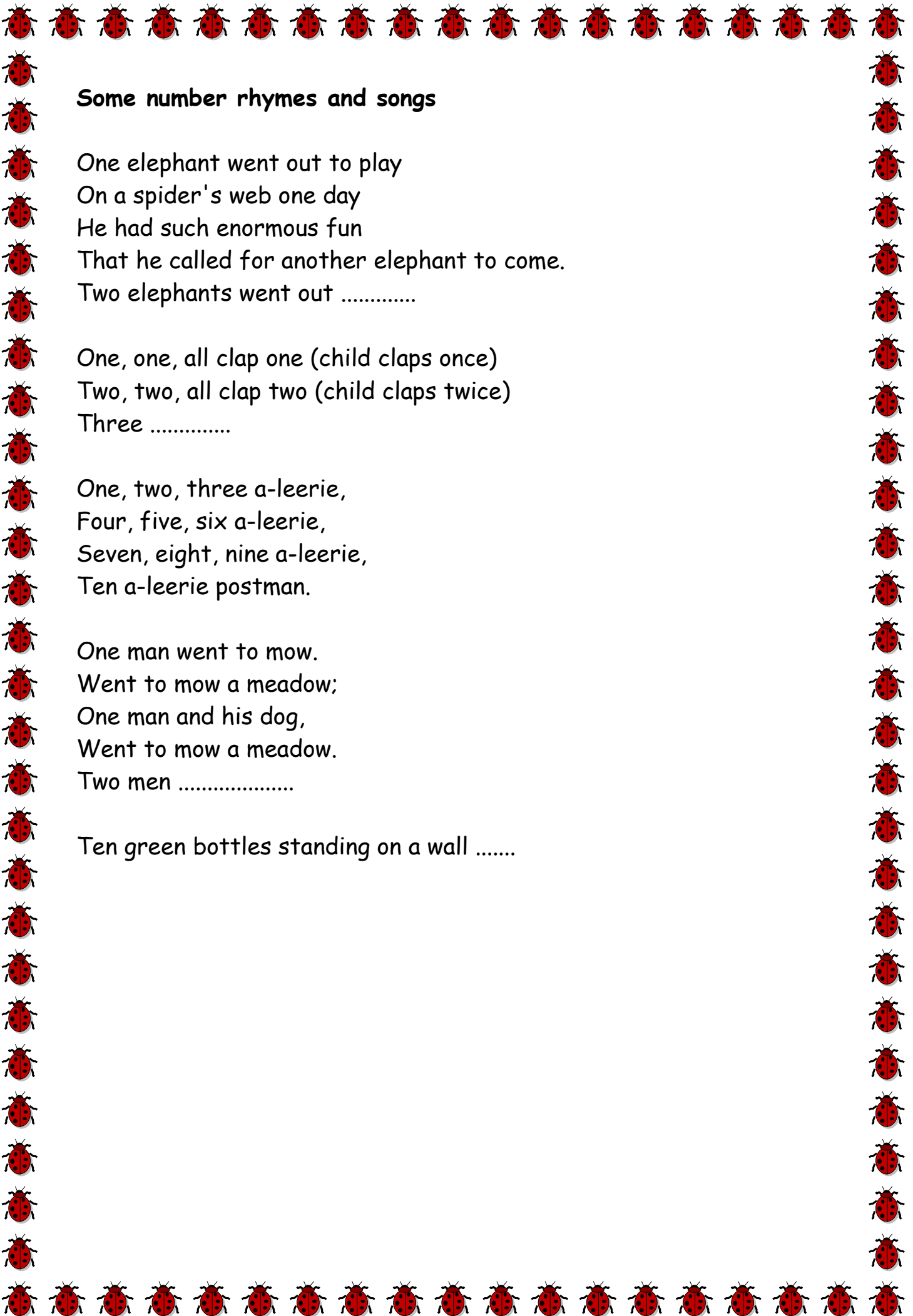
Let him/her cut out pictures from magazines and stick them into a scrap book.

Talk about things which feel rough, smooth etc.

Make hand and foot prints.

Draw round objects. Let him/her colour them in.

Put your child's drawing or painting on the wall and talk about it to encourage him/her to do more.



Some number rhymes and songs

One elephant went out to play
On a spider's web one day
He had such enormous fun
That he called for another elephant to come.
Two elephants went out

One, one, all clap one (child claps once)
Two, two, all clap two (child claps twice)
Three

One, two, three a-leerie,
Four, five, six a-leerie,
Seven, eight, nine a-leerie,
Ten a-leerie postman.

One man went to mow.
Went to mow a meadow;
One man and his dog,
Went to mow a meadow.
Two men

Ten green bottles standing on a wall



Here are some games to play...



Odd man out



Say three things to your child and ask him/her to tell you which is the odd one out, for example, **apple, banana, fork**



Try these at home:



cat, dog, brush



carrot, horse, potato



tree, car, bike



Ask why it is the 'odd one out'.



I went to the shop.



You ask your child to pretend to go to the shop for three things and ask him/her if he/she can remember the items. For instance, "I went to the shop for milk, bread and sausages. Can you remember what I got?"



Some finger games to play:



Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are.



Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky.



Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are.



Here is the beehive, where are the bees?



Hidden away where nobody sees.



Soon they'll come creeping out of their hive.....



One, two, three, four, five.



Incy wincy spider climbed up the spout,
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain.
Incy wincy spider climbed the spout again.





How to make playdough

Making models with playdough is fun and very good for 'little' fingers. Here is a cheap and easy recipe which will provide the children with an easily manipulative dough.

1 cup plain flour
2 tbsps cream of tartar
1/2 cup salt
1 cup cold water
2-3 drops colouring

Put all ingredients in a large pot on maximum heat. Keep mixing till it turns into a lump of playdough. Leave till cool. This keeps well if wrapped in a polythene bag and kept in the fridge.

Finally never be afraid to come and ask anything - that's what we're here for.

We hope that some of your questions have been answered and that you are somewhat reassured.

This is an exciting new time for you and your child - share it with us and enjoy!

See you soon!

