

Hello Green Room! I hope these days at home are being nice for all of you and you are healthy and safe!

We have prepared some activities that we wanted to do with the children during this week and you are more than welcome to try them! Our theme of the month is planet Earth and the Solar System.

Make your own playdough!

Making playdough is very easy and the children love being part of the process! We make it very often and it can last about a week, here is the recipe we use (The children can read it with the little drawings and measure it themselves!)

Ingredients



2 cups of flour



3 teaspoons of cream of tartar



$\frac{1}{2}$ cup of salt



2 tablespoons of oil



1 cup of warm water



Some drops of food colouring

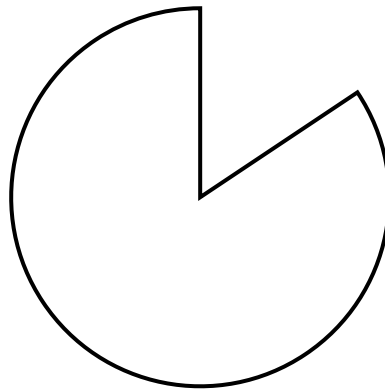
Mix the dry ingredients before you add the wet ones and, if you have it, you can add a few drops of glycerine to make it shiny! We have started to learn the names of some 3D shapes (sphere, cone, cube and pyramid) and our space theme is a great opportunity to create spheres to make a solar system! They also love sticking natural objects such as sticks, leaves and pebbles on the playdough.

Making a rocket

Just before the quarantine, some of the children started creating their own rockets to play with. You just need an empty loo roll, card or paper and some glue!

The first thing to do is to decorate our roll! This step is all about creativity, so we like to give them as many different materials as we can! Paint, markers, glitter, stickers, buttons or different textures of paper will make the most special rockets.

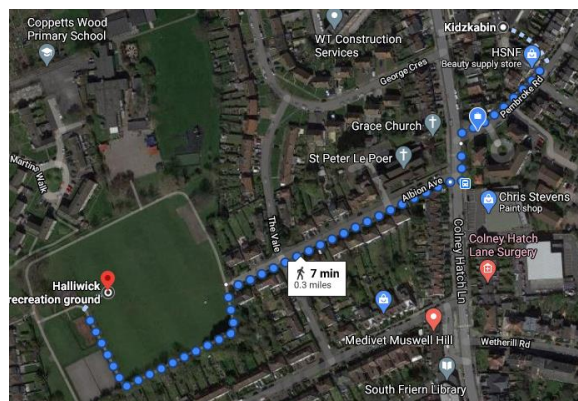
Then, we will need to cut a shape like this one (the younger children will probably need some help, but that's absolutely fine! Trying is what matters)



We need to make it a bit bigger than the roll's circumference. Then, the children can make a cone (there we have the 3D shapes again!) and make little cuts all around it to glue it inside the roll, making a pointy end on the top of the rocket! To finish, you can glue some red, orange or yellow paper on the bottom to make "fire" ... and then is time to play like we're astronauts!

Where are we?

During the space term, we always learn a bit about maps and geography, so if you have a map or a globe at home, its is great to look at it together and discover London, England and other countries! It is also very interesting to use google maps to see our house, the nursery or our favourite parks from a bird's eye view, so we can print it and trace different routes!



Our daily walk to Albion Park from the nursery!

Drawing or using a treasure map!

Another way to understand how maps work is to hide an object or “treasure” around the house and make a map to find it! In the nursery, the children make treasure maps for the yellow room children, and the teachers make treasure maps for the Green Room, but if they have siblings, they can also make maps for each other! They love choosing little objects to put in a box and find them, and drawing the maps is very good for their spatial skills! We can also hide numbers or the letters of their name to add other areas of development to this activity!



Example of home treasure map

Painting planet Earth

A nice, mess-free way of painting planet Earth! We can put a paper plate with blue and green paint inside a plastic food bag and let the children mix, play and distribute the paint as they like. If they want to do it again, you can use different colours to make more planets. They can also make a hole on the paper plate to hang the planets from the ceiling once they dry!



Making a volcano

I'm sure we all remember doing some vinegar and baking soda experiments! Learning about geology, we love making "volcanos" with the children. You only need some cups, vinegar, baking soda and food colouring to make it even funnier. Put some baking soda and colour in cups and let the children squeeze the vinegar inside! We recommend doing it over a big tray so you don't get it everywhere.



Learning about recycling

Learning about planet Earth is also learning about how to take care of it! We like to make little sorting activities for the children, giving them different types of clean objects and let them decide if they throw them in the general waste or in the recycling bin. We can make it more challenging adding more types of recycling bins like paper, food waste or batteries. You only need some containers and any small safe object or toy that you want!

Planet songs and books

There is a lot of songs about the Solar System in YouTube! We are going to learn "The Eight Planets", "Zoom, zoom, zoom" and "Five Little men in a flying saucer", but please feel free to investigate, learn and discover all kinds of facts, stories and songs! They can all tell each other what they learnt during this week and help each other. We have a lot of books about space in the Green Room, but, as always, we love it when the children bring books to share during story time!

We hope these activities are useful for these days! You don't need to do them, but we think it will help to keep the children a bit more entertained. You can also build rockets with Lego or blocks, pretend to be astronauts in the park and make some astronaut or alien costumes!

We are really looking forward to seeing you soon. Have a lovely week,

Beatriz, Irene and Cristina.