

Families[®]

North Yorkshire



FREE

IN THIS ISSUE

Education
Activities
Parenting

January/February 2024

Familiesonline.co.uk

JORVIK

Viking Festival

12th to 18th Feb 2024

The Vikings are Back!

Get into the Norse spirit – the Vikings are arriving in York this February. Enjoy seven days of living history, hands-on fun and many other favourite events.

Tickets are on sale now, find out more on
jorvikvikingfestival.co.uk

Welcome

Happy New Year to everyone! We hope this year is happy and healthy for you all.

Cheer up the dark and dreary days of winter and keep the kids busy with our selection of great activity pages in this issue. Kids can learn to draw better, get more out of music with our great app selection, cook up a storm in the kitchen or do some exciting science experiments.

Looking ahead to half term, we've some great suggestions for family walks and, whilst planning ahead, find early ideas for World Book Day costumes and check out the great family festivals taking place around the UK this year - we even have a **family ticket to Camp Bestival** to giveaway!

Don't miss our **EZLite Graco Stroller** and **National Geographic Science Kits** giveaways either. By applying, you'll also ensure you receive this digital magazine to your inbox every two months.

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Get in touch

Competition winners from our September/October issue

Congratulations to all our winners. You can find a list [HERE](#)

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OPEN EVENTS

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PRE-PREP | PREP | SENIOR | SIXTH FORM

Top family-friendly festivals for 2024

The UK has loads of family-friendly festivals happening this year. Here is our selection of some of the standouts to help you plan.



Just So, Cheshire 16-18 August

A weekend-long camping festival for families. Music, theatre, circus, storytelling and more.



Camp Bestival 25-28 July Dorset

15-18 August Shropshire
Award-winning festival. Diverse musical line up. Loads of family activities and entertainment.



Festival of Sport Venue and date tbc

The ultimate family sports festival. Entertainment, sports coaching and more.



The Long Road Festival, Leicestershire

23-25 August
Country music. Dedicated kids' area.



Gloworm Festival, Nottinghamshire

16-18 August
For children 0-13, music, activities, entertainment and arts.



Deer Shed Festival, North Yorkshire

26-29 July
Wonderland of music, arts, science and sport.



Standon Calling, Hertfordshire 25-28 July

Boutique music and arts festival. Entertainment area for kids.



Gone Wild Festival

22-24 August Exeter
8-11 August Norfolk
Music and outdoor activities like kayaking, high ropes, tree climbing.



Victorious Festival, Portsmouth

23-25 August
Big names of UK music. Newly expanded Kids' Arena - free activities.

The importance of art in the curriculum

By Laura Steele

In an increasingly busy school timetable, art can often be overlooked in favour of the core subjects. Yet, according to **The Tate**: *'Schools that integrate arts into their curriculum show improved student performance in maths, English, critical thinking and verbal skills'*

Art is beneficial to children's development in so many ways.

Imagination, self-expression and creativity

Have you ever watched a child who is completely absorbed in drawing or painting? Their full concentration is on creating something from nothing, using only their imagination and creativity to express a thought, feeling or idea. This is a skill that we should want to nurture in all children.

More than many other subjects, art fosters experimentation. It gives children the freedom and choice to create something that is unique to them. Not only is this a healthy outlet for self-expression but in the world of work, skills like creativity and innovation are highly valued by many employers.

'Art has the role in education of helping children become like themselves instead of more like everyone else.' **Sydney Gurewitz Clemens, Consultant in Early Childhood Education**



Self-confidence, self-discipline and resilience

Art is less prescribed than many other subjects, meaning children can often choose the direction that they take.

READ MORE

Pre School Stay and Explore Sessions

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York

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PRE-SCHOOL
&
RECEPTION 2024

GIRLS & BOYS

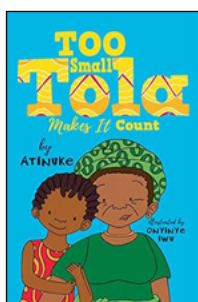
ENROL NOW

mountschoolyork.co.uk



Best new books for kids from around the world

We asked our friends at **Parrot Street Book Club** for their suggestions.



Too Small Tola Makes It Count

By Atinuke

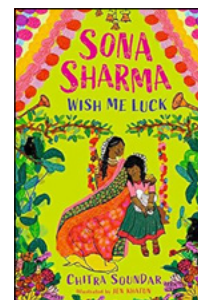
Three fun stories transport readers to bustling Lagos. Ages 5+.



The Midnighters

By Hana Tooke

A magical adventure with a mysterious, gothic-inspired setting. Ages 8+.



Sona Sharma Wish Me Luck

By Chitra Soundar

Warm and colourful illustrated chapter book set in India. Ages 5+.



Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear

By Trang Nguyen & Jeet Zdung

Vietnam-based graphic novel adventure. Ages 8+.



The Last Mapmaker

By Christina Soontornvat

A Thai-inspired, high-seas, fantasy adventure. Ages 8+.



Momo Arashima Steals the Sword of the Wind

By Misa Sugiura

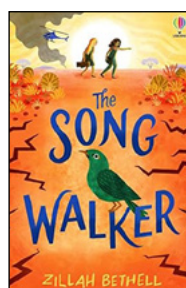
A thrilling, Japanese-inspired fantasy adventure. Ages 8+.



One Chance Dance

By Efua Traoré

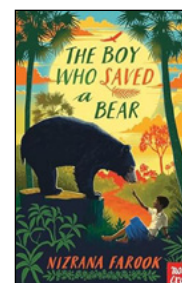
Heartwarming story of friendship and dance set in Nigeria. Ages 8+.



The Song Walker

By Zillah Bethel

Explore the Australian Outback in this story about friendship. Ages 8+.



The Boy Who Saved a Bear

By Nizrana Farook

A gripping Sri Lankan adventure for animal lovers. Ages 8+.



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01423 508558 or by email: admissions@brackenfieldschool.co.uk

Beyond the school system

By Ana Fábrega



It's a fact that the traditional school system doesn't suit everyone, yet many parents aren't in a position to take their children out of school. The good news is that there are options that offer fabulous learning opportunities for children, which can be embraced without leaving the system.

READ MORE

Speech and language at school

By Lisa Wander and Catherine Loble

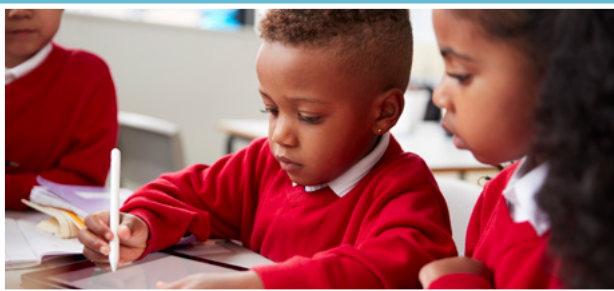


The charity *Listening to unheard children* reports that an estimated twenty percent of school age children are behind in talking and listening. There's an increase in children who can't articulate their needs or feelings or who struggle with sentence construction, sounds and vocabulary.

READ MORE

What to expect from ICT at primary school

By Zuzu Jordan



When managed well, technology can transform learning into an engaging and interactive experience. Yet it develops so fast that parents may find it difficult to keep up with what their children are learning. So how is technology used at primary school? What might your child be taught?

READ MORE

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Beginners through to Advanced, whatever their age and ability
Survival skills, stamina and stroke techniques.

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Through fun and games, see your little one progress to a confident little swimmer!

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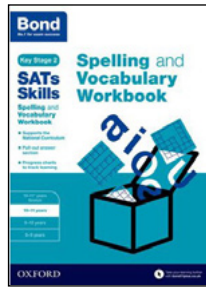
Helping your child with spelling

Does your child struggle with spelling? Take a look at some recommended resources that may help them improve.



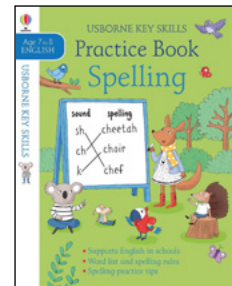
10 Minutes A Day Spelling Fun

Teaches in bite-sized chunks with exciting games and tests. Ages 5-7.



Bond SATs Skills: Spelling & Vocabulary

Builds core knowledge of the words expected in key assessments. Ages 8-9.



Usborne Practice Book

120 spelling activities which get progressively harder. Ages 7+.



First Words Deluxe

Ideal for toddlers starting to master letter sounds. Ages 3+.



Your Spelling

Focusses on words required for KS1 and KS2 SATs. Ages 5-11.



DoodleSpell

Tailors exercises to suit a child's strengths and weaknesses. Ages 5-11.



Match and Spell

Clever spelling game can be played solo or as a family. Ages 5+.



Wordsearch Junior

Fun game - start with pictures and progress to words. Ages 4+.



Bananagrams

Fast, fun word game - build words with lettered tiles. Ages 7+.

Brackenfield school



Since opening its doors in 1977, Brackenfield Prep School has been a cornerstone of Harrogate's educational landscape, dedicated to shaping young learners for over forty years.

[READ MORE](#)

Pocklington School



Nestled in a vibrant, rural market town, 12 miles east of York, Pocklington School is a co-educational day and boarding school for children aged 2-18. With 50-acres of grounds on the edge of the picturesque Yorkshire Wolds, we combine extensive modern facilities with traditions dating back to 1514.

[READ MORE](#)

Shaping Success: sport and performing art pathways

King's Magna is about experiencing a breath of activities but for enthusiastic sports or performing arts students, our pathways hone their skills and prepare them for the next steps in their education and careers.



Our two 'pathways to success' are available from Year 7 upwards. The Performance Sport Pathway is available in basketball, cricket, football and netball. Each student benefits from an Individual Development Plan that comprises of coaching from ex-professionals, nutrition, strength and conditioning, physiotherapy, sports massage and the latest tactical, technical, physical and mental training. The programme allows for competing at a higher level and teaches responsibility, resilience and leadership skills.

[READ MORE](#)



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**SUPERB
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ARTS
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OFFERED
FROM
YEAR 7**

**220-ACRE
RURAL
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**EXCELLENT
FACILITIES**

**OVER 100
CLUBS
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Bridging the gap between primary & secondary, King's Magna's innovative KS3 curriculum best prepares students for GCSEs & A Levels.

In 2023, our senior schools achieved 80% A/A in A Levels, 76% Distinction in BTECs & 63% 7-9 (A*/A) in GCSEs.*

Improving your child's social skills

Play

Role play – use puppets for different scenarios eg when your child meets new friends.

Games – play games which encourage interaction and co-operation eg board games.

Be a good model – demonstrate co-operation and sportsmanship.

Play with peers – organise playdates to provide opportunities for social interaction.

Practise talking

Start early – engage in simple conversations and narrate daily activities.

Listen – model active listening by paying attention when your child speaks.

Expand vocabulary – use a variety of words to describe emotions, actions and objects.

Be polite – encourage the importance of polite language by using 'please' and 'thank you'.

Teach body language

Start with basics – explain how we communicate feelings and thoughts without words.

Observe together – point out examples in everyday situations and ask what your child thinks.

Play games – play 'emotion charades' where children act out emotions with body language.

Books & stories – discuss characters' feelings and the cues that indicate those emotions.

Conflict resolution

Set the example – model effective communication, active listening and compromise.

Promote open communications – empower your child to express their thoughts and feelings.

Identify feelings – help them identify the emotions of others in a conflict.

Foster empathy – help children understand the feelings and perspectives of others.

Eye contact and social skills



A fun activity to build awareness of eye contact to support social understanding.

Dealing with friendship struggles



Great for kids 7-11. Covers the drama of friendship, pressure, competition and success.

How to make *Pancakes*



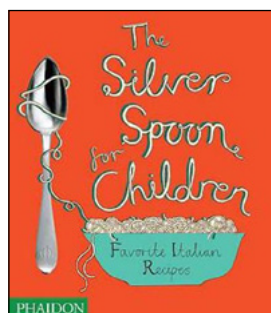
Shrove Tuesday takes place on **Tuesday, 13 February** this year.

Make some delicious but simple pancakes with the kids to celebrate. Just download this great recipe provided by our friends at **PlanBee**

DOWNLOAD HERE

Top recipe books to use with the kids

It's cold and murky outside – but warm and inviting in the kitchen! Cook up a storm with the kids using one of these recommended recipe books.



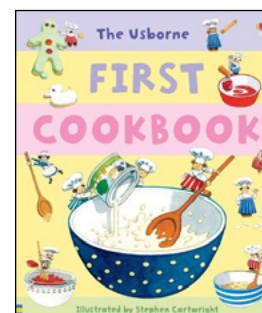
The Silver Spoon for Children

Quick, wholesome, easy-to-make Italian dishes. New edition of a classic. Ages 7-11. £17.05.



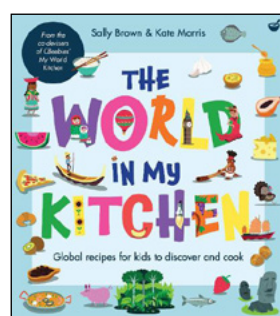
Cook Me a Rhyme: In the Kitchen with Mother Goose

Classic nursery rhymes inspire recipes & cook-along stories. Ages 5-11.



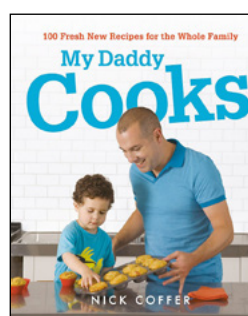
The Usborne First Cookbook

Basic techniques for beginners and selection of favourite recipes. Ages 7+. £12.99.



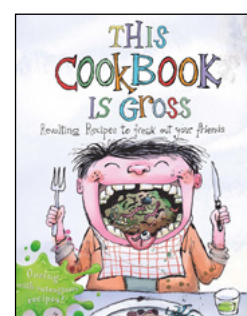
The World in My Kitchen

Explore cuisines and cultures from around the world. Ages 5+. £12.34.



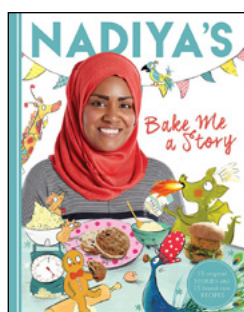
My Daddy Cooks

Cooking for beginners. 100 tried-and-tested recipes. Ages 4+. £3.57.



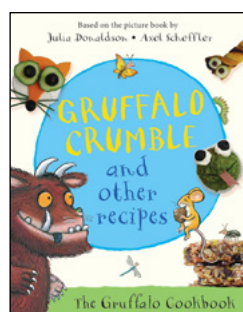
This Cookbook is Gross

Make gross, yet very tasty, food creations! Ages 7-9. £9.24.



Nadiya's Bake Me a Story

Storybook and cookbook combined - scrumptious stories and delicious bakes. Ages 6-11. £14.24



Gruffalo Crumble and other recipes

Recipes specially designed to cook with Gruffalo-loving kids! Ages 3-6. £12.34.



The Vegetarian Cookbook

Tasty and filling recipes - breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks. Ages 9-12. £12.34.

JORVIK Viking Festival

The Vikings will be staging their annual invasion of the city of York from 12th – 18th February 24. Tickets for the highlight events are now on sale and the full programme will be released on 15th December.



JORVIK Viking Festival is a truly an event for all with family favorites Berserker Bootcamp, Poo Day and family crafting and those suitable for the more mature (in age anyway); Mead tasting or our Viking Banquet; Love and Blunder.

The week ends with a spectacular finale at the Eye of York, or if you need to get the kids home earlier join us for the Viking Games.

All tickets on sale from 15th December 2023 and this includes half price tickets for families on low-incomes.

Find out more and book at jorvikvikingfestival.co.uk

Visit us www.york.razzamataz.co.uk

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Sing, ^{to} **Dance**
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The hidden cost of DIY divorce

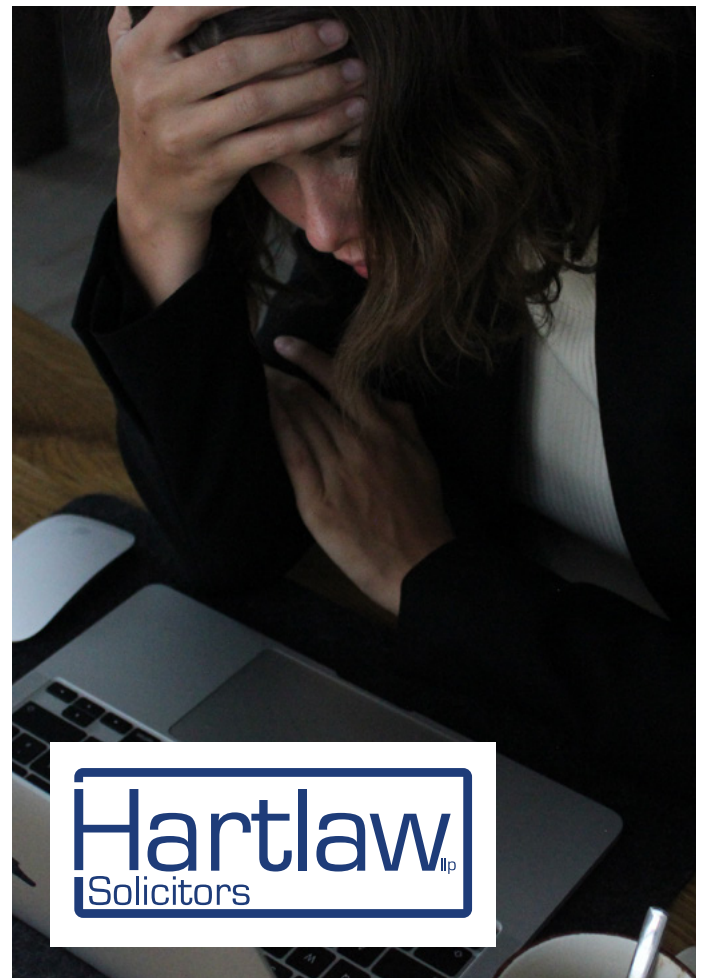
The new year is a time for reflection and looking ahead, which often means that it can be one of the busiest periods in the diary of a family lawyer. New year, new beginnings may be a cliché but it is also often true for separation, as those difficult decisions that you didn't want to face in the run up to Christmas were postponed until the festivities were over.

There is one thing that is always true and that is, you don't have to do this alone. We would always advise getting as much support as possible – family, friends and therapeutic services are going to put you in the best and strongest mindset to deal with the practicalities ahead. This also applies to getting the support of a family lawyer.

A recent article in the Guardian was a stark warning that trying to resolve your divorce/separation and associated financial and children issues 'on the cheap' may be leaving women (in particular) worse off.

The rise of online solutions and DIY divorce is potentially leaving many (often women) facing potential financial insecurity and unfair outcomes.

[READ MORE](#)



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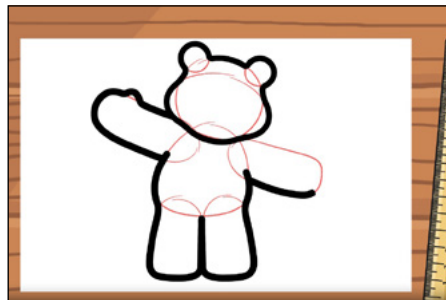
Learning to draw (better)

We've tracked down some great online resources to help your child learn to draw or improve their drawing skills.



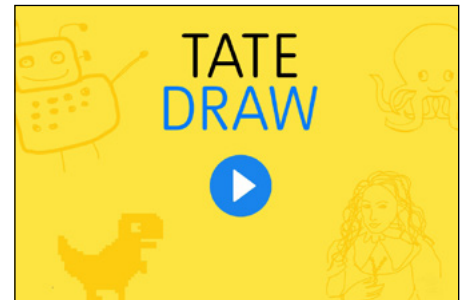
Draw with Rob

Videos showing how to draw everything from an alien to a whale.



How to draw Pudsey Bear

Interactive animation with step-by-step instructions; great for new learners.



Tate Draw

Draw online and create your own digital masterpiece.



Kidmons online painting tool

Easy to use with simple icons. Suitable for early years up.



How to draw the Gruffalo

Step-by-step video shows how, with basic materials, you can create The Gruffalo.



Learn to draw with Ed Vere

BookTrust's collection of how to draw videos from the award-winning illustrator.



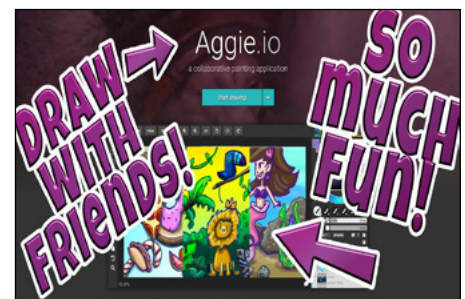
Kleki

Simple and easy-to-use. Allows children to experiment with brushes and colour palettes.



CBeebies Creative Lab

Digital art tool. Children paint/draw on a blank canvas and colour in.



Aggie

Easy to use online drawing tool. Facilitates children to draw with friends.

Great music apps for kids

Encourage your child's love of music with these fun and engaging apps for all ages.

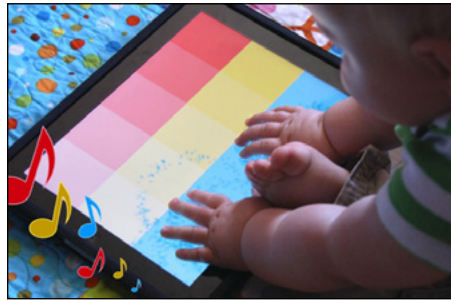


Garage Band

Apple

Transforms a device into instruments and recording studio.

FREE to try.

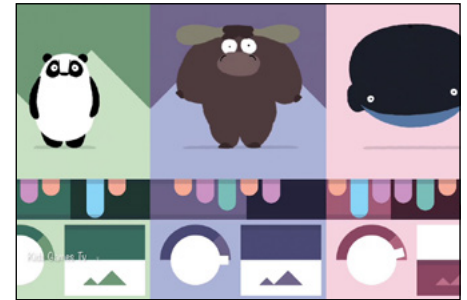


Baby's Musical Hands

Apple & Android

Simple and engaging music app for toddlers which encourages touch.

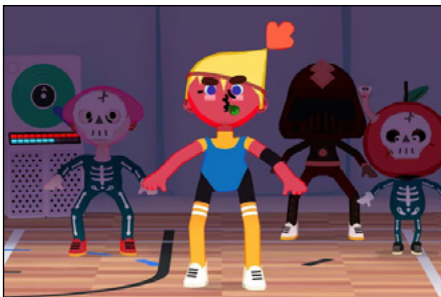
£0.99.



Bandimal

Apple

Fun and intuitive. Kids can discover the creativity of making music. £3.99.



Toca Dance

Apple

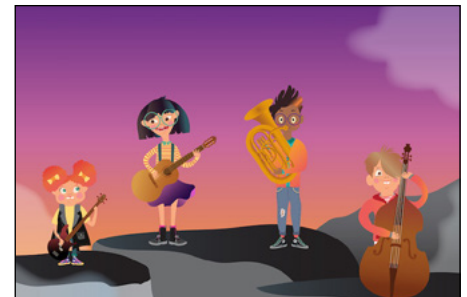
Children choreograph characters' outfits and dance moves to original songs. £4.99.



Beat Sneak Bandit

Apple

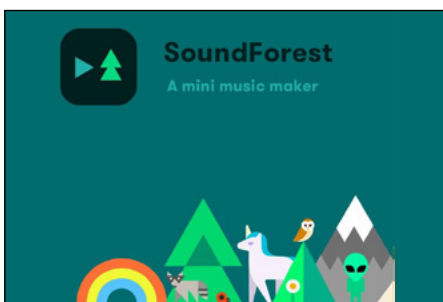
Groovy music game requires rhythm and logic. £2.99.



Mussila Music

Apple & Android

Fun, game-based music instruction allows kids to explore music. **FREE** to try.



SoundForest

Apple

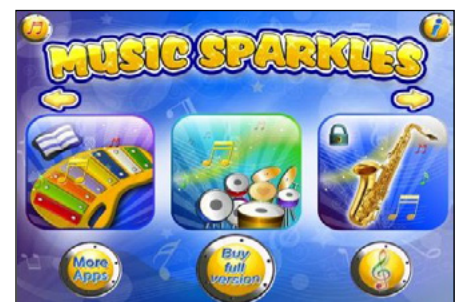
Compose a song using musical creatures. **FREE** to try.



DoReMi 1-2-3: Music for Kids

Apple

Helps kids learn to play by ear. **FREE** to try.



Music Sparkles

Apple

Great play-along music app for little ones, with fabulous upgrade. **FREE**.

Home from Home with Chilly Powder



Do you prefer winter or summer in the Alps... or both? Francesca, Paul and their three children live in Morzine in France all year round and have a good knowledge of Alpine traditions and the Morzine people. Having adapted their chalet holiday style over the years to suit the tastes of their regular guests, they offer the perfect ski and summer holidays for either families, couples or mixed groups in relaxing luxury, with fantastic food and outstanding facilities, with unrivalled in-house childcare facilities. For many returning guests Chilly Powder is considered a real home from home.

For more about Chilly Powder chalets for summer and winter visit www.chillypowder.com

EZLite Graco Stroller Giveaway

T&Cs apply

A perfect, light weight stroller for families

Easy to control and manoeuvre

Newborn to age 3



Worth
£50

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World Book Day costume ideas

Kids LOVE World Book Day! This year, it takes place on 7 March. So start thinking about costume ideas now!



Harry Potter



The Very Hungry Caterpillar



Cheshire Cat



The BFG



Room on the Broom witch



Willy Wonka



Where's Wally



White Rabbit



The Worst Witch

GIVEAWAY

Families[®]



Ages 8+

National Geographic Science Kit Bundles

Discovery and hands-on learning

Bundles include:

Geodes Kit

Gemstone Dig Kit

Glow in the Dark Science Kit

**Worth
£77
each**

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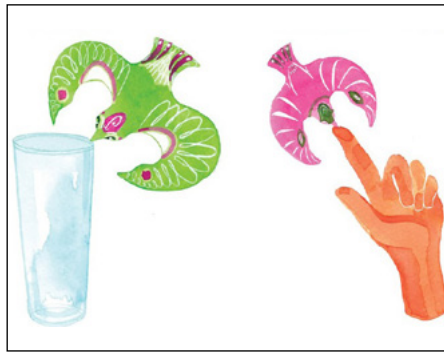
STEM Make n' Dos for kids

Engage your kids' skills in science, engineering, technology and maths with these great activities.



Rubber band car

Make a toy car with everyday objects and some pretty cool science.



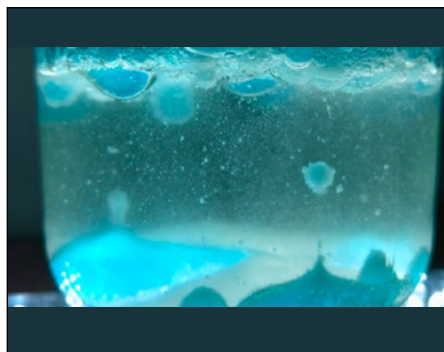
Balancing bird

Build this balancing bird which seems to defy gravity.



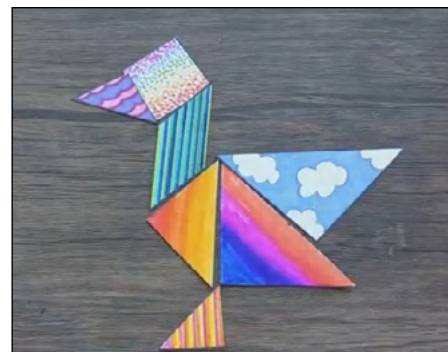
Flying gyroscope

Use a coke bottle to create a flying cylinder.



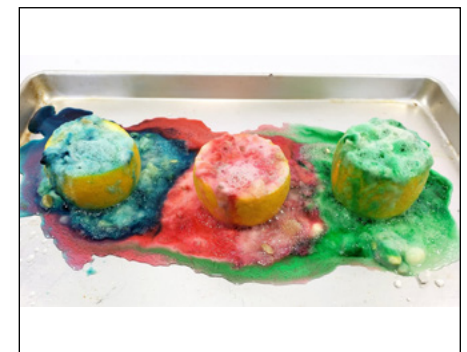
Lava lamp

Make your own funky lava lamp.



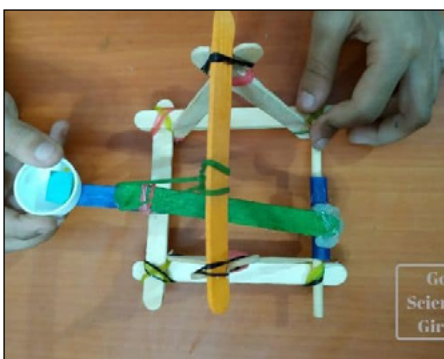
Tangram puzzle

Make your own tangram geometric animal puzzle.



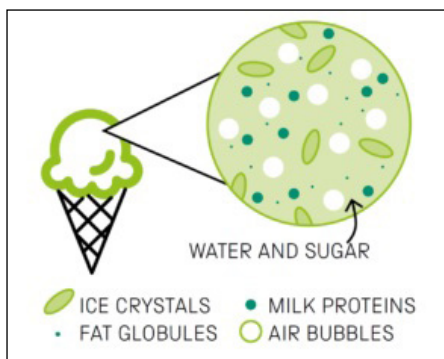
Lemon volcano

Make a colourful erupting volcano with lemons and baking soda.



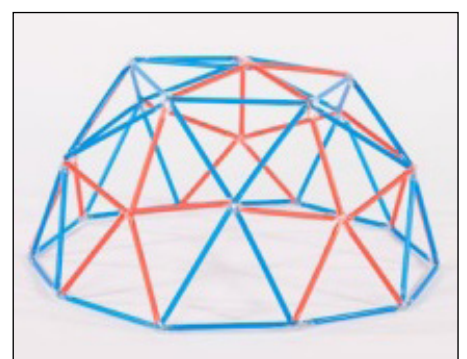
Mini catapult

Use everyday objects and basic physics to make this cool catapult.



Make ice cream

Use science to make ice cream the fun and easy way.



Build a dome

Use drinking straws to create a self-supporting geometric dome.

Family walks for half term

Travel a little further afield during February half term and explore a new area with one of our family walks, recommended by **The Outdoor Guide**.

Cathedral Caves walk, Lake District



This is a hidden gem in the Lake District - a short walk to an old quarry that was once owned by Beatrix Potter. Cathedral Caves will deliver a WOW factor on this short, dog-friendly walk.

READ MORE

Heaven's Gate, Longleat, Wiltshire



This is a relatively flat walk that offers you great views out across the Longleat Estate. If you take a short detour at the view point, you might spot some rhino in the safari park!

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Coombe Abbey Country Park, Coventry



Sitting on the outskirts of Coventry is the Capability Brown designed landscape of Coombe Abbey Country Park. Here you have a choice of three short, family-friendly walks on clearly marked paths through the woodland, around the lake and across the former deer park.

READ MORE

Petworth Park, Petworth, West Sussex



This seven hundred acre deer park is open throughout the year for all the family (including dogs), to enjoy. With far reaching views out across the South Downs, this is a great place to escape the crowds and let your little ones run free. There's a great National Trust cafe in the old stables.

READ MORE

Family walks for half term

Travel a little further afield during February half term and explore a new area with one of our family walks, recommended by **The Outdoor Guide**.

How Hill Secret Garden, Norfolk



A really accessible walk, starting in woodland and continuing into a secret garden - a beautiful boarded walk with water features, streams, amazing plants, seats and old trees.

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Aysgarth Waterfall, Yorkshire Dales



A series of three waterfalls on the River Ure, used to film part of *Robin Hood Prince of Thieves* (where Robin fought Little John in the river). Great shop and café at visitor centre.

READ MORE

Bennett's Cross, Dartmoor, Devon



Dartmoor may be known for its hills and tors but this is a mini mountain that the littlest of legs can manage (although the track up isn't particularly pushchair friendly). Get the feel of open moorland and look out for the secret shelter at the top!

READ MORE

Wallington Tree Walk, Northumberland



With thirteen thousand acres of lawns, lakes, woodland, farmland and parkland, there's plenty of space here for your little ones to run wild. The highlight of this walk are the fabulous old trees that line the route. And being a National Trust property - there's a great cafe at the end!

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The perfect stroller for families



EZLite is the latest lightweight and compact stroller from **Graco**, perfect for families looking for a reliable and convenient solution that won't cost the earth.

This budget-friendly stroller ensures that parents and carers get peace of mind from the reliable Graco quality.

The stroller is available in the stylish Midnight, Dusty Rose or Stormy colourways.

With a canopy that protects from the sun, the stroller also has adjustable calf support and two-position recline, ensuring that little ones are kept comfortable.

Other features include front swivel-lock wheels and a one-stop braking system, making the EZLite easy to control and manoeuvre.

Suitable for newborn babies up to approximately 3 years old, the EZLite from Graco is available now for £50 **HERE**.

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