

PREPARATION:

- This week: Princesses/ Castles/ Knights. Don't feel you have to restrict your topics week-on-week, if your little one is engaged then go with it! But here are some fresh ideas, just in case.
- Sort out some books - One pile of fact/educational books, one pile of reading for fun books, and one pile of book that fit with this week's theme.
- Set up some relevant toys for the week if appropriate, linked to your theme.
- If you did the time capsule activity, you may have already recycled/saved last week's work! If not, clear the decks a bit if you need.
- Save resources – keep an eye on your recycling bin and save anything that might be useful in the next few weeks.
- For the phonics activities I am going to use a selection of things that school have sent, and/or games we already own.
- I'm going to add to and edit Martha's Fun Jar activities.
- I have a cardboard castle stashed away in the loft that I will dig out for them to play in this week.

9am-9:30	PE with Joe Wicks on YouTube / Walk
9:30-10	Phonics, word recognition, or spellings game
10-10:30	English task
10:30-11	Kids out in the garden with a snack
11-11:30	Number/ Maths task
11.30-12.00	Story time - choose books and read together
12.00-1.00	Lunch and free play
1.00-2.00	Science fun / Art / messy play / baking activity
2-2.45	TV / Screen Time for kids (clean up!)
2.45 – 3.30	Outside play
3.30	Snack time / Tea
3.45 – 4.45	Board games and puzzles
4.45	Screen time / TV / Movie

PRINCESSES, KNIGHTS AND CASTLES – Activity ideas

Day	English / Drawing	Maths	Science / Art / Play
Mon	<p>Musical Letters – (10 pieces of paper, pen, music) Write letters / sounds or words on the papers. Spread the letters on the floor near your music. Tell the children when the music is playing they can dance around the letters, but when it stops they have to land on a letter and shout it out. You join in! Remove the letters that get jumped on and start again the music again. Keep going until all the letters are gone/you have a winner.</p> <p>To extend: choose their own letters, write their own letters, shout a letter for them to find, make words from the letters you've used.</p>	<p>Shape Castle – (2D/3D shapes, paper, colours) Using 2D/3D shapes to either build, look at or draw around, children can build a castle, Discuss the name of the shapes as they are used.</p> <p>To extend: add stickers to their picture, or play with their 3D castle.</p>	<p>Outdoor Theatre/Show (dressing up, princess/knights story books, some old sheets or fabric for 'the stage') Together, decide on an area in the garden to use as a stage, you can drape fabric on the ground to separate it from the audience area. Using the stories and any dressing up children can create their own little show for you. If you don't have any dressing up options you could make some crowns together, shields and swords from cardboard or junk. Don't forget to rehearse, and make sure your audience have somewhere to sit (blankets or chairs!)</p>
Tues	<p>Letter Carriage – (letters or sound cards/words, a carriage or train type toy, a 'castle', a bowl/ 'quarry') Pile your letters/sounds/words together in the 'quarry'. Write the desired letter on post-its or a tray/grid inside the castle. Tell the children they have to collect the letters from the quarry. They have to drive the carriage to the quarry and find the correct letter to bring back to the castle.</p> <p>To extend: repeat with different words, arrange the letters or sounds into words,</p>	<p>Number Thief – (Toy, playing cards/number cards, play doh or blu tack) Line up the cards in order, use the blu tack to prop them upright. Sit the toy next to them. Explain that the toy is going to steal a number. Child closes their eyes while you remove a card, prop it against the toy so your child can't see the number. Tell them to open their eyes, model counting up to discover which number is missing. Repeat.</p>	<p>Art – Crown Making (card, paper, sparkly embellishments, glue, paint etc) Find some illustrations or pictures to look at first, then create a crown using a cardboard band as the base, then cutting / sticking / embellishing on top. Swap to make shields or swords if you wish.</p>

	return all the letters to the quarry in alphabetical order. Involve as many toys as you like.	To extend: get your child to do the stealing, mix the numbers up, use larger numbers, include picture cards (castle theme!) from a pack of cards.	
Weds	<p>Junk Mail Hunting – (junk mail or leaflets, pens/highlighters, child friendly scissors, glue, paper) Depending on your source material, here are some letter hunting ideas–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find letters and highlight/circle. • Count how many, make a tally chart. • Cut and stick large letters. • Look for specific words/sounds. • Make new words/write a letter. <p>You can also use books like the book detective activity last week!</p>	<p>Simple Newmarket – (playing cards/ number cards) This is a version of the game without the betting (to start with at least!). Share out one suit of cards between players, or number cards. Each player looks at their own cards and play cards in the right order into a pile in the middle. As they grow in confidence you can extend.</p> <p>To extend: include picture cards, more numbers, involve a betting element as in original game.</p>	<p>Play – Jewel Hunt (some ‘crown jewels’ anything sparkly or precious looking will do! paper, pen, reward) Hide the crown jewels around your house and garden. Explain that the crown jewels have been stolen! Give the children a rough map of your house and garden and mark where the treasure is hidden.</p> <p>Alternatively, hide some letters and then children collect the letters to make a clue for where the jewels are hidden.</p> <p>Have a reward ready for when they’ve completed!</p>
Thur	<p>Silly Soup – (2 different coloured pieces of paper, pen, scissors, mixing bowl, wooden spoon) On one colour write ten consonants, on the other write the vowels x 2. Cut them out, fold them and chuck them in the mixing bowl with the spoon. Explain to children we are going to make some silly soup! Mix the ‘soup’, sing some songs, add some extra ingredients if you like (princesses!). Then get them to fish out a consonant, a vowel then another consonant. Unfold then read</p>	<p>Measuring and Ordering Heights - (tape measure optional, a few family members or toys) Arrange members of family or toys into order of height, Discuss and use words like ‘bigger, smaller, taller, shorter, next to, in between’. Try some official measuring with a tape measure if possible. Record somehow: draw a picture, make a chart or take a photo.</p>	<p>Messy – Water Painting (Water and a paint brush) Let them ‘paint’ outside, fences, sheds, walls etc. If you’re keen with the theme tell them the king/princess has ordered that everything is painted with this new paint!</p>

	<p>the word you've made – is it a real word or silly word?</p> <p>To extend: change the consonant for other speed sounds, use words to create a sentence, try some CVCC words.</p>	<p>To extend: arrange in reverse order, mix up and challenge to rearrange,</p>	
Fri	<p>Tell Me A Story – (something to write on – magna doodle/whiteboard/ blackboard, imagination!) Tell a simple story, stopping at CVC or simple words and instead of speaking the word write it for your child to read aloud. Involve them in deciding the next steps of the story, and for extra excitement include words like 'poo'!!</p> <p>To extend: new stories, get them to draw a picture of their favourite part,.</p>	<p>Princess Tea Party – (a tea set or jug/bowl/cups/spoons, selection of 4 toys, pieces of paper, tray, water, flour. You might want to put towels down or do this outside!) Write numbers 1-4 on paper, these are your 'orders'. Set the toys up on the tray around the tea set. Fill the teapot with water and add some flour to the sugar bowl. Explain that the toys have to come to the party and show them their orders. Get them to choose a toy and an order, model pouring some water and adding spoonfuls of 'sugar' depending on their order.</p> <p>To extend: Include sums, bigger numbers, more toys.</p>	<p>Time Capsule – Every Friday get children to pick some 'evidence' from what they've done this week. Talk about best bits, photos to print, write notes to explain. You can get them to include facts about themselves, or things they have learnt. Collect them and pack in a box, after a few weeks the box will go away to be reopened in a few YEARS time!</p>

Resources:

Some letters / numbers (magnetic or wooden)

Tea-set

Flour

Princess Carriage / Train Toy

Mixing Bowl

Wooden Spoon

Tape Measure

Play doh

Paper

Pencils / Pens / Crayons

Playing cards

Shapes (2D or 3D)

(The above planning is a combination of my own ideas and ideas from [@fiveminutemum](#), [@beckys_treasure_baskets](#), and [@thebodycoach](#). I also know [@emma_scottchild](#) (Ladyland) is doing an online Art Club on Instagram, every day at 2pm if you want to craft-along with her!)