

## Home Learning challenge - Dinosaurumpus!

There is one area of history that captures every child's imagination and piques every child's interest-dinosaurs! Our children here love learning and talking about different dinosaurs, and so this week's home learning challenge centres around these ancient animals!

### Fantastic Fossils!

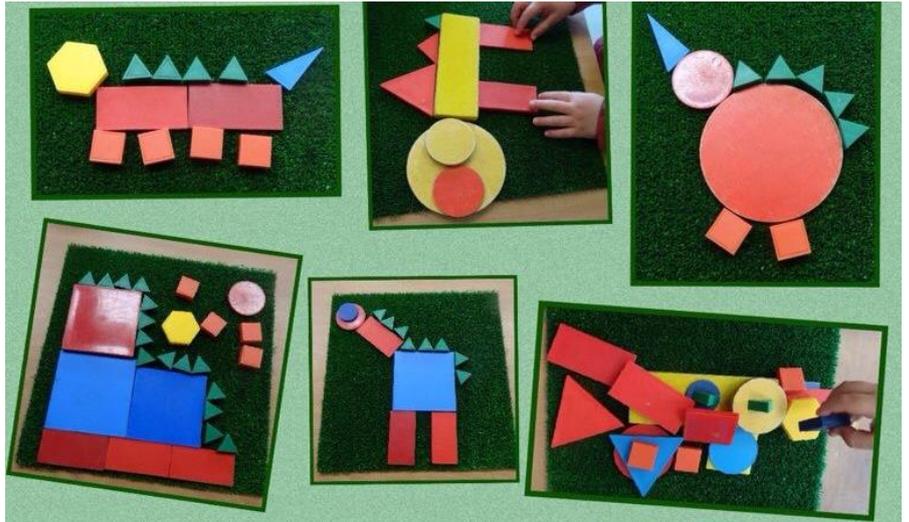
Given the interest that children seem to have in dinosaurs, many would love the opportunity to create their own dinosaur fossil. All you need for this activity is a toy plastic dinosaur and some salt dough (which is easily made by combining a cup of flour with a cup of salt and half a cup of warm water). Simply create the dough, roll into small balls, and press the plastic dinosaur into the dough! Some children might like to create footprints, while other children may prefer to press various parts of the dinosaur into the dough-maybe they can create a tail fossil, a tummy fossil, or even a head fossil! Once the 'fossil' has been created, pop them into a preheated oven at 250 degrees for 1-2 hours, until they are hard. Be careful because they are so hot when they come out of the oven! Once the fossils have cooled down, perhaps you might want to hide your fossils in sand, for your child to excavate all by themselves-simply give them a paintbrush so they can be like real palaeontologists, as well as develop their fine motor skills!



### Dinosaur Shape Building

Learning how to tessellate various shapes is a fantastic skill not only with regards to maths, but with regards to reading as well, which is why jigsaws are such a good pre-reading activity for children. While this activity is not quite a jigsaw, it will nonetheless support tessellation skills, as well as developing Expressive Arts and Design and Imagination skills! Children can be given a variety of pre cut shapes to build a dinosaur. Perhaps they would like to make a terrifying T-Rex, or a brilliant Brontosaurus? Maybe a terrific Triceratops? Or

maybe they're feeling super imaginative, and want to invent their own dinosaur? They can use the shapes to construct to their heart's content! Talk to them about why they are making certain choices, and why they are including certain features. Less experienced children might



want to build along a pre drawn shape, starting with clear defined shapes before moving on to smoother outlines which challenge them to select the correct shape, before complete independence. This activity will also develop fine motor skills, and, as there is no wrong way to build a dinosaur, will support self-confidence skills!

### Frozen Dino Eggs

This investigative activity is a firm favourite here, and supports divergent thinking skills, as well as Understanding of the World skills. Simply pop a dinosaur into a non inflated balloon, fill with water, and freeze overnight, and then the next day your child can try to figure out the best way to "hatch" the dinosaur from it's icy egg! You can make materials such as salt and warm water



available if you want your child to learn the science behind dissolving ice quickly, or maybe you want to give them a more hands on experience, and show them how to safely use tools such as hammers to break up the ice. This would help hand-eye coordination, as well as helping children to realise how tools are used. Older children might even wish to record how they freed their dinosaur, so make sure you have pens and pencils at the ready for them to do so!