

**PREPARING FOR PLAYFUL
LEARNING IN THE INFANT
CLASSROOM
SEPTEMBER 2020**



Suzanne Murphy

Sarah Purcell

Welcome by Dr. Dympna Daly, West Cork Education Centre

- ❖ Welcome and Introduction Dr. Dympna Daly, W.C.E.C.
Current situation and advice
- ❖ Introduction to Panellists
- ❖ Suzanne Murphy
Wellbeing and anxieties, First Day back
Playful Learning- resources and equipment
- ❖ Sarah Purcell
Games and activities
- ❖ Discussion and questions

Thank You!

Suzanne Murphy - Teaching 2 teacher rural school, Junior Class.
25+ years teaching - Enable Ireland, Early Start, Junior Room (Westmeath and West Cork)

- Current Situation [webinar on issues for schools](#)
- Other Countries
- Wellbeing concerns



Hands on and Playful Learning Supplies

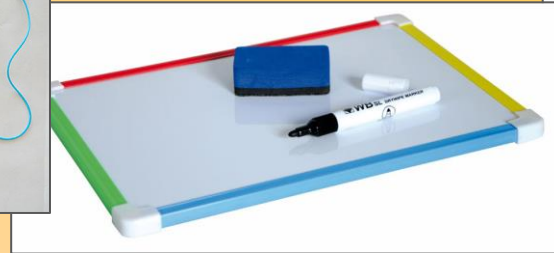
We need to prevent cross contamination.

- Individual 25-40L, with lid
- Label clearly
- Keep under tables
- No sharing
- Washable- no fabric or soft toys
- No shared Sand or Water trays
- Dress up clothes (shared) not advisable
- If doing water play- individual tubs or buckets
- Possibly can't play together in groups (unless we are advised to have 'pods' or 'bubbles')



What to put in the box: Fine motor/creative

- Playdough- 2-3 different colours, in well sealed containers.
- Set of colours
- Safe scissors
- Beads or spools to thread
- String/lace
- Mini whiteboard, marker and cloth



[Playdough Recipe](#)

What to put in the box; Construction

- Easy to clean small wooden or plastic blocks
- Linking cubes
- Straws



What to put in the box: Maths

- Linking Cubes
- Sets of materials for sorting- linking chains, bears, counters, bottle tops....
- 3-4 small bowls or containers
- Laminated numerals as appropriate



What to put in the box: Small World

- Laminated 'scenes' or playdough mats for whatever theme is current.
- Small set of toy animals
- A few vehicles
- "People" (eg. lego men, our counting bears...)



What to put in the box: Sand

- A shoe box/lid
- Ziploc bag for sandy stuff
- Pebbles, small trees, etc.



What about copies, books, etc...

- Another, smaller box/basket on top of desk.
- Set of pencils, gripper, sharpener, eraser to stay in school.
- Wipes, etc?



[Link to checklists](#)

What about copies, books, etc...

- There might be an issue around books going home and coming back?
- Edco 'Home School Hub' will give parents access to books on the booklist (Sept)
- Gill have been in touch to say they are looking into something similar.
- Others may follow suit.



Hi Suzanne,

In response to your query regarding eBooks for home use I can inform you that Gill are currently looking at ways to accommodate teachers and parents from September should the need arise to give access for home use. We are currently trialing our system to make sure our platform is robust and allows for this functionality. We are working hard to make this happen and will be in a better position over the coming weeks to roll out our solution for those using our books. Needless to say, we will have a solution for Gill customers for September as we believe this will be crucial for schools to be able to offer a blended solution due to the current health and safety concerns.

Paired Reading and Library Books

Library/reading books - shared?

- E-books
- PDFs
- Non use for 72 hours before switching

[Current access Folens Suppliers](#)

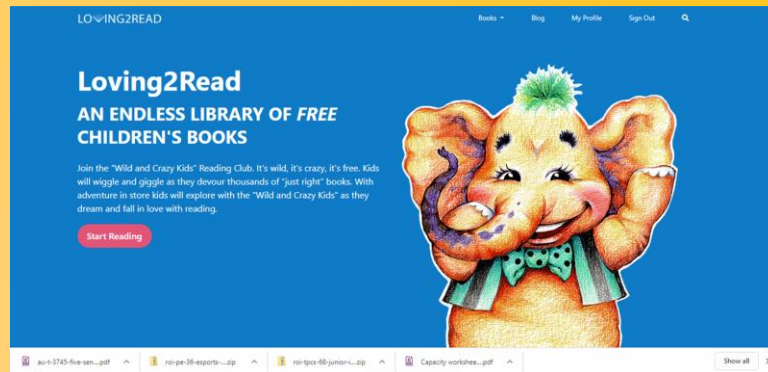


Paired Reading and Library Books

- <https://loving2read.com/>
- Free -but requires sign up.

- Raz Kids/ reading a-z.com
- Current price (\$115 for 1 classroom licence)
- Use anywhere, any device 1-36 children

- [SPELD.SA](https://www.speld.sa.gov.au/)
- [Oxford Owl.](https://www.oxfordowl.com/)



Wellbeing and Easing the Anxieties

1: Before we return: (particularly new J. Infants)

- Visit your classroom, set it up.
- Include a 'quiet corner' for anxious/overwhelmed children.
- Make a 'Virtual Tour' video, to send home, if real visit isn't going to be possible
- Show the positive and fun activities we will do- reading stories, blocks, playdough, jigsaws....
- Maybe a colleague or you yourself could model (and video record) new routines- entering school, getting to your classroom, washing hands routines, bathroom, etc.
- Have a social story of the main points ready/ send home beforehand
- Request child wears velcro shoes, easy clothes (check with school – tracksuits instead?), lunches that don't need help!



[Transitions Document for SEN Student \(NCSE\)](#)

Wellbeing and Easing the Anxieties

1: The First Day:

- How will they leave their parents?
- Give them their box, their cubby, etc.
- Visual timetable
- Lots of playtime
- Explain, model and practice routines
- [Story](#)
- [Nursery Rhymes](#)
- Art/creativity
- Outside if possible!
- Lunch: Routines around it, time to chat!
- Hometime: routines, handover?



← Tweet

♥ Nicole Winter #mantleoftheexpert liked

SurreyHead
@HeadSurrey

I felt so nervous this morning, but as the first child leapt out of their car with a beaming smile my heart did a little dance. I've walked around the school, looked into the classrooms, seen their smiling faces, got lots of excited waves and think that we're all doing just fine.

9:26 am · 01 Jun 20 · Twitter for iPhone

20 Retweets 484 Likes

AL TIMETABLE

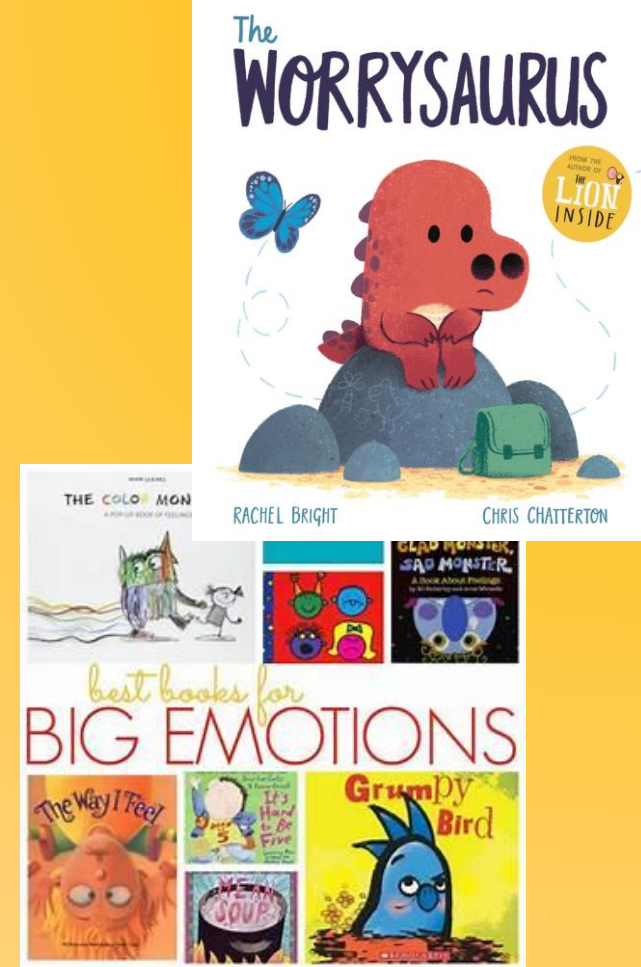
why and how to use one

able	time to sit	listen	group time
phonograms	book study	toilet	fruit
morning talks	mental maths		

Wellbeing and Easing the Anxieties

Specific Well Being Focussed Activities:

- Story books and Social stories
- Circle Time (while sitting at desk?)
- No talk object to pass around but could use: <https://www.classtools.net/random-name-picker/>
- Children's yoga
- [Classdojo](#)
- [GoNoodle](#)
- Art- give them some free expression time with the materials, rather than focussing on beautiful finished products.
- Create an 'Achievement Wall', with photographs of all the great things they are/have been doing, let them write 'passports' with likes/dislikes/strengths, etc. and display!



Picture Books for Discussion and Games

<https://ncse.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Picture-books-for-games.pdf>

- Provides links to YouTube videos, resources to print and games ideas.

Picture books reinforce the social and emotional learning that takes place when we play. We learn turn taking, how to cope with winning and losing, sharing, patience, negotiation, hearing and responding to instructions, manners and all the social skills we are so worried that our kids may be forgetting while they are isolated from other big groups of children.

Circle Time Co-operative Games (suitable)

- **Partners** (also called Mirror Mirror). In pairs one child does some gentle movement/ and the other child must mirror this exactly. Alternatively, 1 child could turn to the rest of the class and all mirror.
- **Quality Initials:** To start Circle work positively, each person thinks about one or two initials of his/her name e.g. Chris Grant, CG., and finds two affirming qualities that describe him/herself. Alternatively, the children can work with someone seated beside them and introduce each other.
- **Clapping Game:** One person leaves the room. The rest of the group/teacher decides upon an object for the person to find. The player outside is then brought in and tries to find his object or activity while the group claps. The group helps the player to complete the task by clapping louder and louder as the person approaches the object decided upon. If the person is far away from finding their object, then the clapping becomes soft
- **Shopping List:** The group forms a circle. One person starts by saying 'I am going to the market to buy fish'. The next person says 'I am going to the market to buy potatoes and fish'. Each person repeats the list and then adds an item. The aim is to be able to remember all of the items that all of the people before you have listed. (You can use this one for phonics and to revise vocabulary as Gaeilge also)

(<https://www.pdst.ie/Cooperative-games>) ([NCSE Listening Games](#))

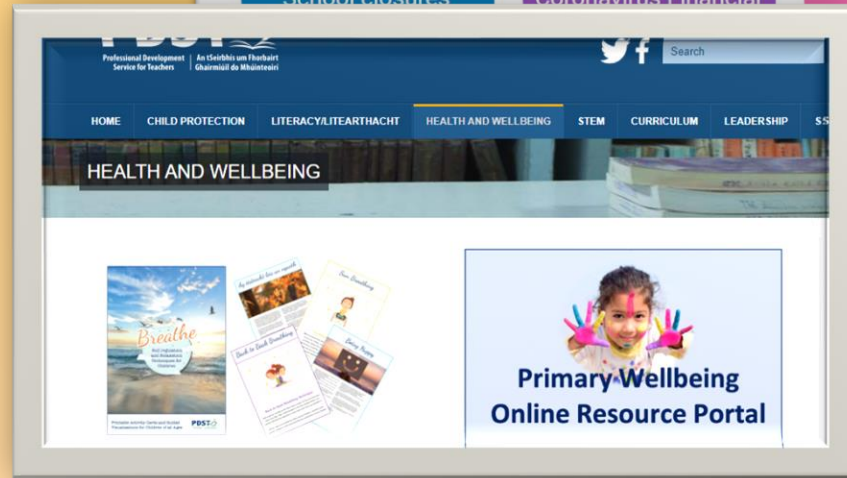
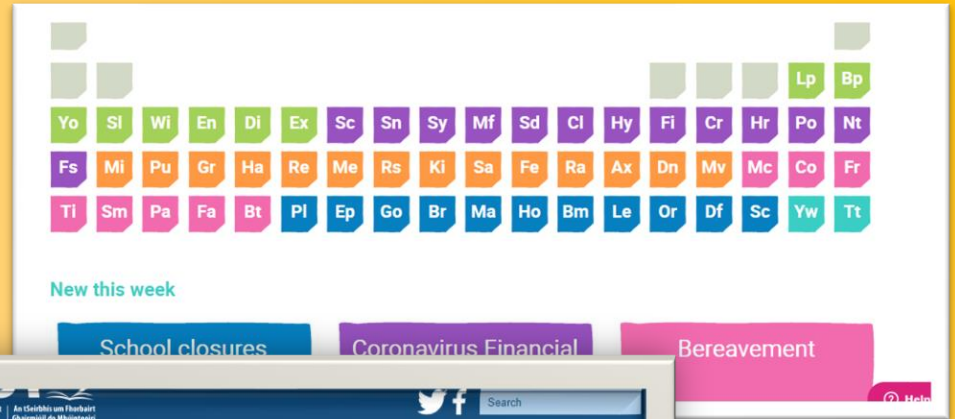
Mind Yourself:

[Twinkl wellbeing Hub:](#)

[PDST Wellbeing Resources:](#)

<https://www.pdst.ie/primary/healthwellbeing/distancelearning>

<https://www.inspiresupporthub.org/>



Sources

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Suppliers

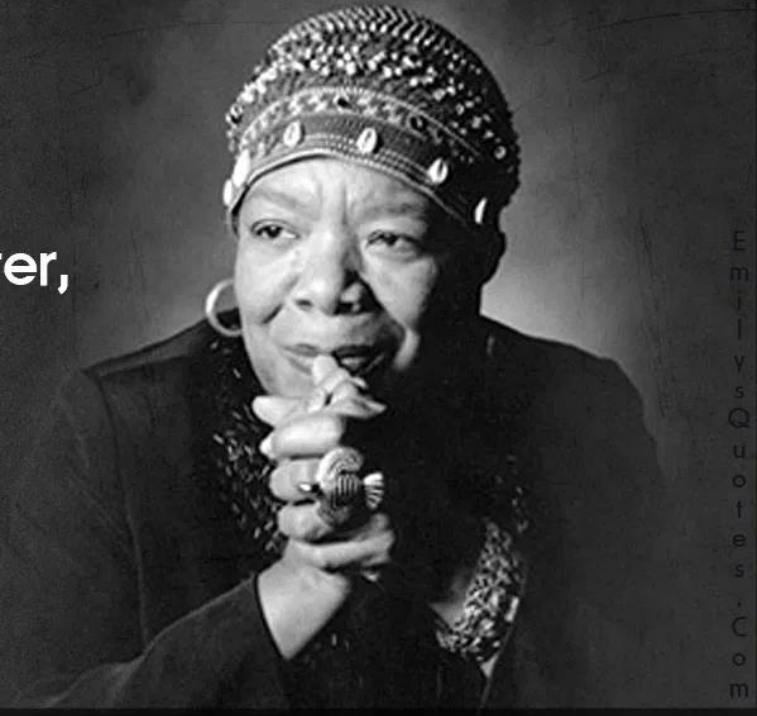
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Thank You!

Do the best you can until
you know better.

Then when you know better,
do better.

-Maya Angelou



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