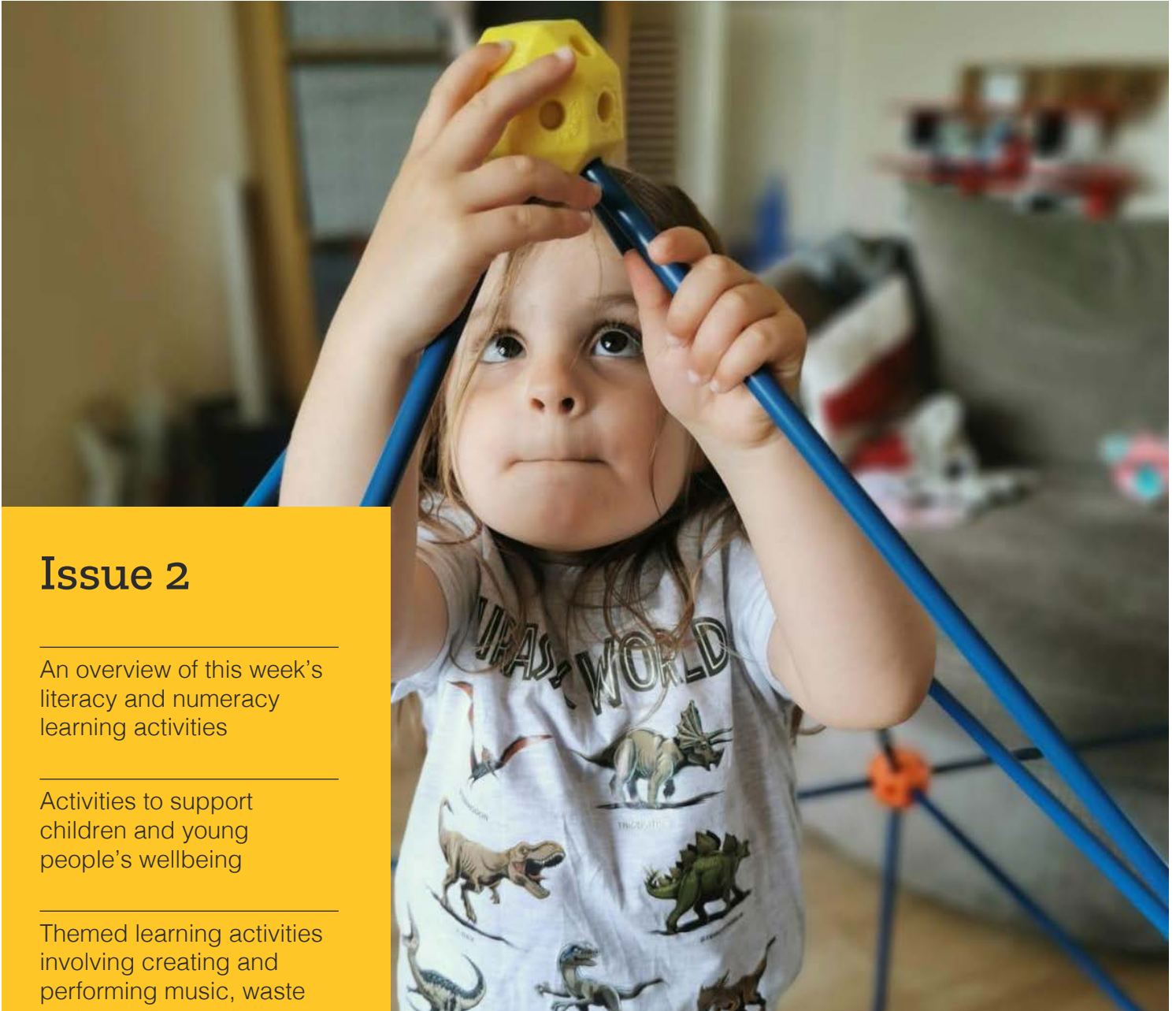


Scotland Learns

Practitioner Newsletter

20 May 2020



Issue 2

An overview of this week's literacy and numeracy learning activities

Activities to support children and young people's wellbeing

Themed learning activities involving creating and performing music, waste and recycling and individual housing needs

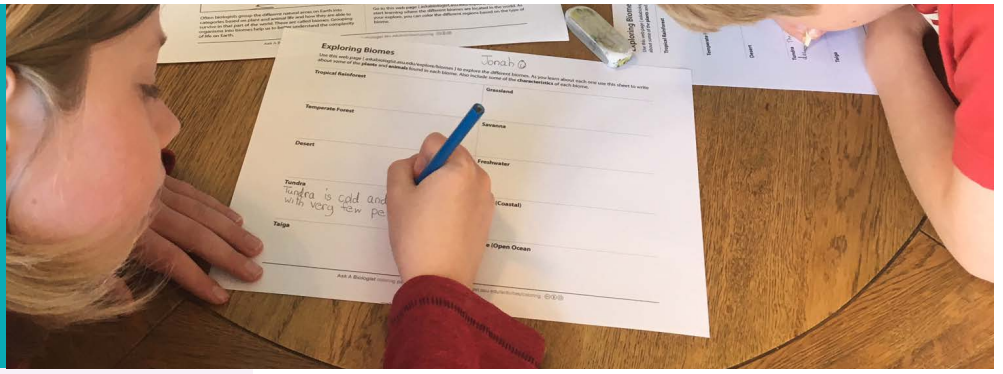
More about Gaelic Medium Education learning activities

Links to support play at home and outdoors

Each week, we will publish suggestions for learning at home activities which should be linked to class learning where appropriate. See below for more details of this week's learning activities and more hints, tips, links and ideas.

Sign up →

Learning activities



Literacy and English



This week's literacy and English ideas will support you to design activities that support children and young people to recognise and build on their skills.

- Younger children at early level can develop their understanding of story structure and rhyme through listening and talking. They can practise this through sharing their personal experiences about recent events.
- At first level children are encouraged to develop their skills for independent reading using a range of texts accessible at home. They can also develop writing skills based on their personal experiences.
- Children at second level can develop their looking and listening skills by producing weather reports for where they live. They can also create their own poetry and select and explain their preferences for particular texts and authors.
- The activities for young people at third and fourth level build on their existing skills. They are encouraged to develop confidence and independent thinking, design their own questions and think about how they contribute to community life.

[Literacy and English activities](#) →

Numeracy and mathematics



This week's numeracy and mathematics activities focus on ideas to support you to develop children and young people's understanding and use of mathematical concepts which you can use or adapt for learners. It is important to think about the range of learners in your class and their individual circumstances when planning play-based activities.

- Younger children at early level can explore number sequencing and counting using the context of rhymes and songs.
- Children at first level can learn to tell the time using 12 hour clocks and explore larger whole numbers, up to 100 and 1000.
- At second level children can begin to extend the range of whole numbers they work with. They can measure the time it takes to complete a range of tasks and convert between 12 hour and 24 hour notation.
- Young people in S1 to S3 will understand and apply links between mathematical concepts through exploring co-ordinate points and straight lines, speed, distance and time.

[Numeracy and Mathematics activities](#) →



Learning activities

Health and wellbeing



Looking after our health and wellbeing as best we can is really important for us all in these uncertain times. We have ideas and activities appropriate for children and young people at different ages that you might like to highlight to families.

We have activities for older children and young people focused on staying safe online.

- Early level activities support children to consider how we are all different and what makes us unique. They can explore their thoughts on friendship and what qualities they can look for in their friends
- Children at first level can consider what makes a person unique and how people change as they grow using the context of family. They can explore how to make and sustain friendships and what to do if they are worried or upset.
- At second level children develop their understanding of the concept of consent in relation to their personal safety and wellbeing, and the safety and wellbeing of others. They can identify potentially harmful behaviour towards them in online environments.
- Young people at third and fourth level can learn about recognising and understanding the impact of stereotypes in society. They can build their understanding, skills and capacity to assert themselves in relationships.

[Health and wellbeing activities](#)



Interdisciplinary learning activities



Each week, we suggest activities that cover different curriculum areas for children and young people learning at home. These learning activities encourage children to apply their learning and skills in real-life situations. This week, the themes include creating and performing music, waste and recycling and individual housing needs.

- Younger children at early level can explore sounds and rhythm using everyday objects and/or musical instruments to help create their own performance. They are encouraged to think about how to reduce, reuse and recycle household waste and litter.
- At first level children can begin to consider the needs of residents and learn about making adaptations to a home to raise their awareness of disabilities. They can develop their understanding of the use of energy and how they can conserve their own use of energy.
- Children at second level can apply skills in literacy and numeracy across learning to develop their knowledge and understanding of people and place, and the local environment. They can consider the advantages and disadvantages of different forms of transport, travel time, speed and distance.
- Young people at third and fourth level can develop an awareness of how different weather conditions across the country impacts on people's lives. They can learn how to use lyrics and song to highlight important messages on climate change.

[Interdisciplinary learning activities](#)



Hints and tips

Supporting learners facing social and emotional barriers to learning

We all know that for children and young people who are not in school just now or who are attending hubs, it can be a challenging time. Being out of their normal routine and not doing the things they usually do can be very unsettling. Children and young people may be worried or even scared about what they hear in the news and on social media. Being separated from their friends may be troubling them too. The resulting mixture of different emotions can manifest itself in lots of different ways. In addition spending more time with the people they live with may mean they get into more arguments or conflicts with those around them. All of this can affect everyone's mental health, as highlighted in this week's Mental Health Awareness Week. Here are useful [website links for practitioners](#).

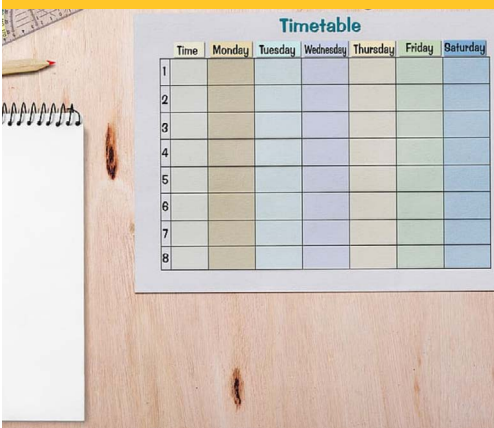
Many children and young people may need additional support for their social and emotional wellbeing and to express their feelings in a safe and supportive way. Here are a few suggestions to support children's and young people's social, emotional and mental health needs at this time.

- Use your knowledge of the child or young person and their family to help you personalise support on an individual basis. If you are aware that a learner already has social and emotional barriers to their learning, then they may require even more support at this time.
- A well-known, structured routine can help to give a child or young person a sense of control and security during a time of great uncertainty. Liaise with parents to help develop predictable daily routines to support their child's particular needs. Here is an example for a younger child of a [daily routine template](#).
- Encourage children and young people to find time to play and socialise with others, within their immediate family.
- Provide engaging age-appropriate activities for children to support their social and emotional needs. Depending on the individual's level of need, this may include activities which support children and young people to:
 - » recognise emotions in self and others
 - » understand the causes and consequences of emotions
 - » label emotions accurately
 - » express emotions appropriately
 - » regulate emotions effectively
- Every individual has his or her own way of expressing emotions. Sometimes engaging in a creative activity, such as drawing, creative writing or music, can be positive activities to help individuals express feelings.

As always, use an attachment and trauma lens to understand behaviour. Monitor progress closely and engage the help of specialist agencies if required.



[Useful website links for practitioners](#)



Hints and tips

Supporting learners facing social and emotional barriers to learning (links)

- Edsurge's [teacher interrupted leaning into social emotional learning amid the covid-19 crisis](#).
- Study.com's [emotional literacy activities](#).
- The Scottish Centre for Conflict Resolution provide a range of training and resources. Find out more information at [SCCR](#)
- And finally a resource mainly for those teaching children in the upper years in primary which contains ideas and information you can adapt [a compassionate and connected classroom](#).



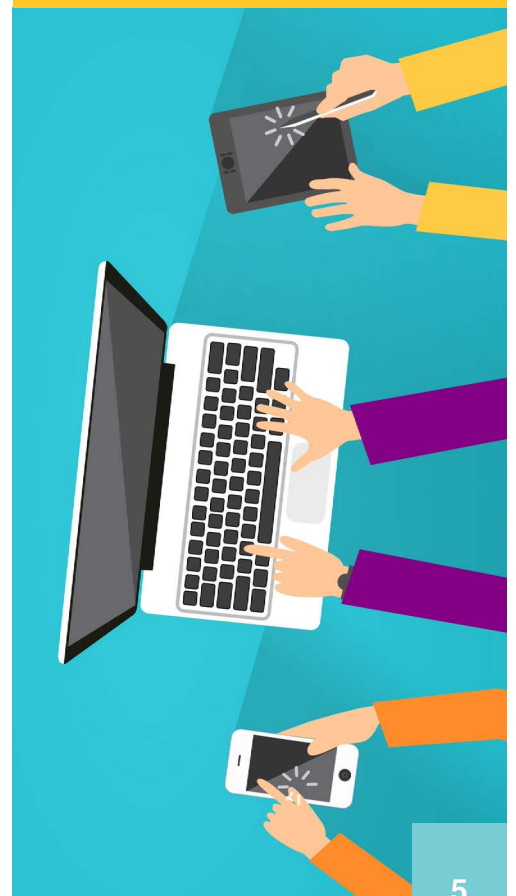
Digital Learning

Across Scotland national organisations and local authorities are working hard to support digital learning. For example, Aberdeen City Council have produced [digital learning online advice for staff](#) and [digital learning online advice for pupils and parents](#). The advice for staff highlights the importance of choosing the method of delivery based on the lesson itself. It offers helpful advice on how to make the most of video alongside pupil assignments and activities, plenary and assessment. It also outlines approaches such as collaborative learning, variable outcome and includes a helpful plan for a lesson. The use of VoiceNote and TextHelp Read and Write tools to give voice feedback is suggested. [This youtube short video helps for anyone new to this](#).

If you are supporting parents, carers and young people to navigate through online learning, several organisations provide useful information you can pass on. For example, The National Parent Forum of Scotland have a wide range of information leaflets called "[In a nutshell](#)" for parents, carers and young people. Also, please check their [online safety information](#).

For those of you supporting young people, Young Scot has helpful advice about keeping safe, including shopping online and being aware of potential scams. You can find out more here [How is Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Changing How We Interact Digitally?](#). This advice can also be great for those of us looking for information about platforms such as zoom and houseparty.

Hints and tips



What's new this week

Learning Activities for Parents and Carers in Gaelic Medium Education

This week on **#Scotland Learns** we have introduced a range of learning activities for parents and carers whose children learn through the medium of Gaelic. We recognise that not all parents and carers speak Gaelic, so we offer some suggestions on how children can be supported in accessing Gaelic. Learning activities are also available in English to support parents and carers who may not speak Gaelic. Activities focus on using Gaelic language skills, as well as learning for numeracy and mathematics, and health and wellbeing. In coming weeks, we will add learning activities connected to a theme.

Practitioners of Gaelic Medium Education are encouraged to share both the information for parents and carers and learning activities on **#Scotland Learns** with families to support children and young people's learning through Gaelic.

Blog image: "exploring scotland-stornoway-signs in gaelic" by Paula is licensed under CC BY 2.0



Foghlam Meadhan Gàidhlig



What's new this week

Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety (CRIS) Professional Learning Community (PLC)

The purpose of the PLC is to provide CRIS information and support for educators.

The PLC will be a one-stop shop for resources, latest news and will host useful links, making content easy to find. These links will provide information to support parental engagement, professional learning, curriculum planning and online safeguarding.



What's new this week



Glow and upcoming webinars

Don't forget to keep checking out Glow to find out about upcoming professional learning opportunities and interesting practice from across the country. You can find a range of blogs and posts from across Scotland on the [sharing practice](#) pages of glow. Each week we highlight a couple of upcoming webinars, but there are more to choose from and are added regularly so keep checking [on the digilearn webinars page](#).

Thursday 4th June 2020, 2pm Barefoot Computing Showcase. This session will help you make the most of what Barefoot Computing has to offer, with a detailed look at example cross curricular lessons and the new home learning activities, based on the computational thinking concepts and approaches.

On Tuesday 9th June 2020, 11am you can join Learn To Code With Code Club –Using Code Club materials to teach computing science and move beyond block based coding using Python, HTML and CSS led by Dr Lorna Gibson (Programme Manager at Code Club).

DIGILEARN

[webinars page](#)

Education Scotland Big Blethers

We are hosting a series of virtual events known as Education Scotland Big Blethers, which will mainly be hosted on Microsoft Teams, and are available for booking now. The aim is to support education professionals to connect, share and collaborate.

The next in the series are:

- 25 May Big Blether Primary
- 26 May Big Blether Secondary
- 28 May Big CLD Blether



BIG BLETHER

For more information
on how to join a
conversation, see

[#ESBigBlethers](#)

New Science Planning Tool from Raising Aspirations in Science Education (RAiSE)

An online resource, prepared by the Raising Aspirations in Science Education (RAiSE) programme, has been launched to support planning for meaningful and engaging primary science experiences.

RAiSE is a programme of The Wood Foundation, Education Scotland, Scottish Government and participating local authorities which enhances the delivery of STEM education in primary schools.

The resource addresses each of the science curriculum organisers in the topics of planet Earth; forces, electricity and waves; biological systems; materials; and topical science. Individual planners for each experience and outcome have been produced and include a list of suggested activities and links, as well as further lesson ideas and inspiration.

Find more of this resource and more helpful science links on the [STEM Wakelet](#).

What's new this week



Links

East Lothian Play Association – promoting the right to play

East Lothian Play Association (ELPA) is a group of interested community members and play practitioners who believe that all children, regardless of ability or background, have the right to play. ELPA promotes children's right to play (article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child). The group shares the benefits and value of play for all children and young people living in our community and supports those working with children. This happens through, for example, the provision of training, development activities, promotion of loose parts play and National Play Day. More information can be found on the [ELPA website](#).

Free home play pack from Play Scotland

Play Scotland have launched the home [play pack](#) which is free to organisations in Scotland working with children and families in these challenging times.



Aye Feel

A new emotional wellbeing support site from Young Scot

This week Young Scot have launched a new site [Aye Feel](#) to support young people with their wellbeing. There is helpful information for young people on mental health, dealing with conflict during this time and mental health support for carers.



Sharing Practice

Why not get this newsletter emailed directly to you each week? Or pass it on to anyone you think might be interested?

Sign up →

Outdoor Classroom Day Learning across the four contexts in East Ayrshire

[Outdoor Classroom Day](#) is a global movement to inspire and celebrate outdoor play and learning which this year falls on 21 May. This year's theme is Playful Nature and aims to connect children and young people through play from gardens, balconies or even living rooms.

East Ayrshire Council have developed outdoor learning across the four contexts. More information on this approach and a template to share your outdoor learning at home can be found on the [National Improvement Hub](#).

