



Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

The Quest for Fun!

In providing a HAF Programme for the summer we want to help you to make it a fun experience for all involved: staff, children, and families. Here are some thoughts, ideas, and information that you may find helpful.

Risk and a Can-do Attitude!

We all have a responsibility to keep children safe, but this is sometimes done to the detriment of children's play. The [Play Scotland website](#) will support you to provide a rich environment and help you to understand risk-benefit. There are signposts to several documents that you may find useful in your planning.

Health and safety are often cited as reasons not to offer some play opportunities. The [statement](#) from the health and safety executive will support you to get it right.

Resources – Emporium

We have a wealth of creative and enriching resources for HAF Programme providers in Kent through our resource loan centre called Emporium. It has a wide range of resources which can be hired for the summer, including resources for Forest School (such as outdoor cooking sets and hammocks) and resources for groups of children. There is an out of school section on the website and there are additional resources in other places. They are delivered and collected by a dedicated team who work hard to ensure that all requirements, including COVID-19, are met.

Emporium are offering the Bronze subscription (£93.60) to all programme partners, but resources would all be provided as one delivery. This allows you to have four boxes of resources. If you would like more information or would like to borrow more resources, please contact [Emporium](#) for further information. There is a contact us section on their website. Emporium can be contacted by email or by telephone:

Emporium@theeducationpeople.org

Tel: 03000 422 355

Please be aware that resources will need to be booked as soon as possible so that delivery timetables can be arranged.

Open-ended Play

Providing a range of open-ended play supports children of all ages and all abilities to play in their own way and for their own reasons. This is part of the [Playwork Principles](#).

Training: We will be offering training around Loose Parts which will support you to develop your play opportunities for the children. Community Playthings have further [training resources](#).



Start Collecting

General

For example, pallets, nets, sheets, hammers and nails, drills and saws, rope, tarpaulin, string, logs, carpet tubes, a range of wood and wooden blocks (you may be able to borrow some blocks from schools).

Arts and Crafts

- A range of card or paper of various sizes and quality, including tissue paper and crepe paper.
- Pastels, charcoal, and other colouring resources.
- Junk modelling – a good range of boxes, ribbon, plastic containers, fruit bags, tubes, and other things that can be recycled into junk models.
- Adhesives – for example masking tape, Sellotape, glue, Pritt Stick.
- A range of paints, for example household testers, glass paint, neon paint, bubble paint, acrylics, oils, watercolour, poster paint.
- A range of mediums for children to work with, for example clay, Modroc, playdough, water, sand, moon dough.
- Natural resources for children to use in artwork, for example, twigs, leaves, driftwood, stones, flowers that can be dried, flowers to make perfume.
- A range of supporting resources, for example rice (which can be coloured and used for a variety of projects), pasta, and sand which can be used to provide texture.
- A range of fabric and fabric paints and pens which can be used for a variety of activities including T-shirts and tie-dye and making backdrops and props for artistic performances.
- Small stones, buttons, wiggly eyes, pipe cleaners, cotton wool, fabrics, sequins, glitter, beads, shells, paper plates, magnets, and fir cones are all useful resources for art and craft.

Dance, Music, and Drama

- Resources for children to use when creating dances, for example ribbons, sticks, hats, dressing-up (COVID-19 restrictions allowing).
- A range of music from a variety of cultures, and a variety of styles, including classical, jazz, and popular music.
- A range of musical instruments and resources for children to make their own musical instruments.
- Ways to record music that children make.
- Spaces that can be used, these may be created using large boxes that have been purposed, stage blocks, or open spaces.



Fun Staff Guides

If your staff are new to the HAF Programme and to playwork there is a series of books called the [Buskers Guides](#) which are short, fun, and informative. They include books on playwork, inclusion, risk, participation, playing out, and behaviour.

Physical Activities

There is a wealth of resources available to support with this. We will be offering a training session to help with ideas, and which support you to include all children.

Making Food Fun

Food and nutrition are part of the programme, but this can be done in a fun and creative way. [Countryside Classroom](#) has resources around teaching cooking and nutrition, food as well as other useful information.

The Children

The programme is for the children and their families. If you can, include the children in planning the day-to-day activities, maybe they could choose a name for the programme, or for their group. Talk to the children regularly to gain their views and ideas and offer them areas of responsibility. Listen to the children by offering them a feedback board with post it notes or similar.

Follow the children's interests where possible, this will ensure that children are listened to and respected. Where possible extend the choice of play on offer and give children and young people the time and the freedom to explore the choices on offer. Consider how you can support children's independence and build their self-esteem.

Local Resources

Consider using local people, companies, and groups to come in and do something in their area of interest. Skills may range from knitting, singing, first aid and Forest School to looking after animals, pottery and painting. The possibilities are endless and will enrich the programme for your children and families.

The Natural Environment

Consider how you can encourage children's engagement with the natural environment by having magnifying glasses, cameras, microscopes, telescopes, and other science-based resources to excite their interest.

Have resources for children to grow their own plants, vegetables, and food, for example compost, pots, and seeds.

Let children climb trees, make dens, build campfires, and use Forest School techniques to equip children to enjoy the outside space.

Encourage children to build habitats for animals, for example, wormeries and bird boxes. Invite local groups to come in and talk about the natural environment.



The Wider Community

Invite local community groups, for example youth groups, drama groups, and church groups, to come in and talk about what they do, especially if they have free membership so that children can become involved with community groups after the programme has finished.

External Activity Providers

If sports are not your area of expertise, or cooking with groups makes you anxious, or art and craft is not your specialism, consider linking up with local organisations that can help you. You do not have to do everything in house, you can have a project partner who delivers some aspects of the HAF Programme requirements either with you or for you.

The HAF Programme team are here to help so please do not hesitate to get in touch.
KentHAF@theeducationpeople.org

Useful Website Links

1. <https://www.playscotland.org/play/playful-learning/managing-risk-play-provision/>
2. <https://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/childrens-play-july-2012.pdf>
3. <https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/early-years-childcare/emporium/>
4. <https://www.playwales.org.uk/eng/playworkprinciples>
5. <https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/learning-library/training-resources/i-made-a-unicorn>
6. https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=buskers+guides&i=stripbooks&ref=nb_sb_noss
7. <https://www.yourschoolgames.com/active-recovery/>
8. <https://www.ltl.org.uk/>
9. <https://www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk/resources>
10. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/>
11. <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/visit>
12. <https://www.naturefriendlyschools.co.uk/free-resources>