

Family Learning Challenge

Week 1

Monday 23rd March

This week's theme: Poetry

27th March is World Poetry Day. Discover a love of poetry, rhythm and rhyme with our fab poetry themed activities!

How to take part:

Each Family Learning Challenge is a mini project full of fun, themed activity ideas for children while schools are closed. Each week the project will finish with a final challenge, which you can submit to Children's University and to your school community online. Share your learning with the community and keep connected with others!

1.

Make a start by completing the starter activity below...

2.

Build your project by picking from some of the fun mini activities in the grid on the second page. You can do as many as you like to explore this week's theme!

3.

Complete the final Family Challenge on the third page when you're ready, and submit it to the Children's University community online!

Make a start here!

Watch Benjamin Zephaniah read his poem 'I love my mother'

[Watch on YouTube](#) by searching for 'Benjamin Zephaniah I love my mother'.

Benjamin Zephaniah is a famous writer and poet from Birmingham.

This simple poem is about the poet's respect for his mum. It uses simple rhymes and repeating phrases. How does the poet use his voice when he's reading the poem?

Build Your Project

Now you've made a start, pick from some of the fun follow up activities below to explore this week's topic! Take photos and share them with us and your school. Can you think of other great activities around this theme? Share them with our community!

Activity #1

Write a haiku about how you are feeling. Verse 1 can include something that isn't great, or something that is worrying you. Verse 2 can include something that makes you feel positive.

Check out what a HAIKU is online if you're not sure.

Activity #2

Sit in a circle with a group of three or four people. Make up a poem as a group by speaking a line each and moving around the circle one by one.

Activity #3

Find a poem by one of these poets:

- Michael Rosen
- Lewis Carroll
- Carol Ann Duffy

Learn a poem of theirs (or learn a single verse) and recite it to your family at home, OR over a video call with other friends or relatives.

Explore ways of reading the poem to make it really exciting, emotive and expressive. Watch Michael Rosen's top tips for performing poems and stories on YouTube to give you some ideas!

Activity #4

Read the poem [Smiling Is Infectious](#). If you write the poem down, can you circle all the words that rhyme? Can you underline all the bits of each word that you put emphasis on when you read? e.g. smiling is infectious

Activity #5

Do you think computers can write poems too?

Some computers have been programmed to look at lots of poems and learn the simple rules that poems follow. Then you can ask the computer to use the rules it has learnt to make it's own poem. Check out [this poem](#) that has been written by a computer.

Do you think this is poetry? (Poem portraits by Es Devlin).
artsexperiments.withgoogle.com/poemportraits

Activity #6

Cut out words from a newspaper or magazine and work together to make a poem. You can fill in some gaps by yourself if you like.

Family Challenge

Now you have explored this topic and taken part in some of the mini activities, it's time to complete your final mission...

Complete the **Family Challenge** below, and submit your completed challenge to Children's University Scotland.

Every entry we receive will be entered into our scrapbook each week and shared with the community who helped to create it online. Take up the challenge and get involved!

This week's challenge...

Write your own poem about Spring!

Instructions: Choose one of the following two options create a poem of your own about Spring. You might even want to include a Spring picture or border!

1. Create an Acrostic poem (look up what this means if you are unsure)
2. Can you use all 5 of our senses in a poem about Spring?

Submit your challenge!

You can submit your challenge entry in the following ways:

Don't forget to include your name, age, and school. Ask an adult to help you.

1. Via Twitter

Tweet a picture of your work to [@ChildrenUniScot](https://twitter.com/ChildrenUniScot). Use the hashtags #FamilyLearningChallenge and #CUS. Don't forget to tag your school's twitter account too!

2. Via Email

Email your work to contactus@childrensuniversity.scot

3. Via Facebook

Send us a message on Facebook with a picture of your completed challenge. Our Facebook page can be found by searching for '[Children's University Scotland](https://www.facebook.com/ChildrensUniversityScotland)'.

Collect your credits!

If you have a Children's University **Aspire** account, you can collect **2 credits** for completing the Family Challenge!

Send us your entry first, and then log your credits online at www.cus-aspire.com.

Search for 'Family Learning Challenge' in the activity search to find the activity.

More activities are available at...

www.childrensuniversity.scot/cu-members/learning-at-home