



 Sunshine and clear blue skies 

Hi Friends,

We hope you've all had a wonderful Easter weekend, and were able to enjoy the sunshine that we are so fortunate to get this time of year!

Here are some new crafts and tips to keep your little ones busy this week!

Stay safe, stay kind and remember to smile as much as possible....



# Dream BIG!!!

Let their creativity be their driving force to the future...

## What you'll need:

- Construction paper
- Magazines/Newspaper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons

### Tip:

Hang it up for the kids to see, and let them know they can add to it all year!

## Easy Steps:

- Divide the dream board into 4 sections: Do, Go, Be and Love.
- Ask a series of questions so the kids can answer them with their magazine cut outs.
- Do: What do you want to be when you grow up? What kind of person?
- Go: Where do you want to travel to? What would you like to see?
- Be: What can you do to make yourself a better person? How can you help others?
- Love: Who do you love? Family? Pets? What makes you feel loved?

## Updates From Our Team:

Hello OSNS Families,

We want to keep you informed on how we are doing our best to stay connected, here are a few words from the teams that make up OSNS.

### Your Early Intervention Team:

Your Early Intervention Team is continuing to work from home and stay in touch with families through emails, phone calls and video chats. If you need to contact us but do not have your therapist's contact information please use reachout@osns.org and someone will get in touch with you the same day.

### Your Early Childhood Education Team:

The ECE team has Essential Service Child Care up and running. We have organized groups of interested families for some virtual preschool sessions through Zoom that will begin this week. Some staff have been creating program resources, video's for social media, an outdoor play powerpoint

presentation, as well as doing online courses on emotional literacy, brain development and virtual preschool.

### **Your Autism Intervention Team:**

Our Autism clinical team continues to work remotely. We are providing email, phone, and video consults to families. Please reach out to your clinical team to see how we can support you. We also continue to work on our resources, handouts, clients' reports, and switching to improved digital systems.

Our thoughts go out to all those affected by COVID-19. Keep well and please stay connected to the OSNS through our various social platforms including [www.OSNS.org](http://www.OSNS.org), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#). We will get through this. Thank you for your continued support. #OTISARMY #STRONGERTOGEHER



*Just a friendly reminder...*

### **EMERGENCY FUNDING**

The BC government has announced new Emergency Relief Support Funds and added service flexibility for parents of children with special needs. This includes expanded services and equipment that can be purchased with Autism Funding. MCFD encourages families to contact their CYSN worker to see how they can benefit.

More information about this can be found on the government website [here](#).

## Tip Of the Week:

### How to ask questions to encourage language

Sometimes when kids are reluctant to talk, we ask more questions to encourage a response. BUT questions can put our kids on the spot and work the opposite way we intend them to. Instead, try turning questions in to comments.

Keeping comments short means our kids might be able to copy the phrases they hear and feel more willing to participate.

Save questions for moments when you don't know the answer! For example, "What colour car would you like to play with?" rather than question when you do know the answer, such as "Is that a car?".

Sometimes an "I wonder..." statement can help reduce the pressure while still inviting our kids to participate (I wonder what this is..., I wonder if that car is fast or slow..., etc).

Consider trying these tips while working on your Dream Big! Vision boards.

Have you joined the #OTIS ARMY?    

OSNS invites you to join us in our Otis Army social media campaign, featuring our favourite bear, Otis, living his best life in our community, our homes, and our businesses as we all make the conscious effort to stay home and practice social distancing.

Take pictures and videos with Otis and show us how we're all in this together. We want to see what Otis is up to while we are all doing our part staying at home and practicing social distancing. We know your creativity will create smiles!

Tag OSNS on Facebook & Instagram use the hashtag **#OtisArmy**. Let's show this community that we all support one another, in good times and bad!

Thank you for supporting the #OtisArmy. Watch our Facebook page for updates!



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