

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Topic 2 of *Open Day Starter Home Connection*. We hope you enjoyed working with your child on Topic 1.

Topic 2 is called **My Place in the World**. In this topic, your child will learn to talk about the house and furniture, his or her bedroom and toys and pets and where things are. Home is an important part of your child's world and it is a place where he or she should feel comfortable and secure. The **Topic Preview Activity** is a great opportunity for you to show that you are interested in what your child is learning in the English class. In the **Animal Activities** section, we will continue with the theme of houses from the *Good Buddies* comic strip from the Student's Book, when the children visit a Alex's house and when they celebrate Tom's birthday.

The **Mindfulness** section of this topic focuses on mindful relaxing at home. This is a useful activity that can be done at any time and helps your child to feel calm and relaxed. In the **Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)** section, the subject focus is science. Here, we will explore the topic of pet care. The **Citizenship** section will focus on activities that will encourage your child to think about ways he or she can help other people, specifically by donating toys.

In the **Closing Activity**, we will bring everything together by making a toy with objects at home with your child as a way of encouraging him or her to become aware of the importance of recycling.

You don't have to do the activities all at once. We recommend that you try each of the activities after your child has completed the corresponding sections in the Student's Book or Practice Book. The corresponding Student's Book pages are indicated in each section. We hope you will enjoy taking this active role in your child's learning.



## Topic Preview Activity Student's Book pages 34–35

### My Place in the World

Our home is where we should feel most comfortable in the world. A happy home shapes our attitudes, awareness and self-esteem and is a vital ingredient in the pursuit of a meaningful and healthy life. In this activity, we will give you some ideas for exploring this special place with your child.

- **Get Ready**

#### Part 1

Talk about your house. Ask your child: *How many rooms are there? Which furniture and accessories have we got in each part of the house? Which is your favourite room?* Tell your child about the house you grew up in or the house you lived in before this one.

#### Part 2

Go to your child's bedroom and sit with him or her there. Point out the different pieces of furniture. Ask your child about his or her toys and pets: *Have you got a favourite toy? Which pets have you got?* Choose one of his or her toys to play with or play with his or her pet.

- **Play Spot the Difference**

Try playing this simple game. Tell your child to look around the bedroom and remember where things are. Explain that you are going to move three things to a different place and your child should try to spot the differences. Ask him or her to leave the bedroom and move the things. Then have your child come in and see if he or she can spot the things you have moved. Take turns leaving the room and moving the things. You can play this game in different rooms in the house.

## Animal Activity Unit 3 Student's Book pages 38-39

- **Get Ready**

There are many curious facts your child will sure enjoy learning about giant pandas and talking about them. We recommend you to read this information to share with your child:

<https://www.viaje-a-china.com/oso-de-panda/hechos-interesantes.htm>

- **Make some Giant Pandas Arts and Crafts**

To get your child interested in the topic of pandas, you can make some Giant Pandas arts and crafts with him / her. You will have the chance to have fun and share time with your child as well. Here are some ideas:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htAmmj8aKNU>



## Mindfulness Student's Book page 42

### • Get Ready

The mindfulness focus of this topic is mindful relaxing at home. Children sometimes get stressed and this technique is a tool for them to relax and refocus. It also helps them to be calm if they are feeling anxious or nervous.

### • Practise Relaxing Exercises

Your child learned how to do the *Flower and Candle* and *The Lazy Cat* relaxing techniques at school. Get him or her to teach you! Try doing them together with your child from time to time after school or before bedtime to help your child get ready for a good night's sleep! They only take two minutes and they will help you both relax.



## Animal Activity Unit 4 Student's Book pages 48-49

### • Get Ready

As with other vulnerable or endangered animals, there are a number of interesting facts about bald eagles that will be interesting to know. You can share some of this information about them with your child:

<https://www.muyinteresante.es/naturaleza/fotos/curiosidades-sobre-el-aguila-calva-251599499012>

### • Watch a video about Bald Eagles

Help your child learn more about bald eagles and get the chance to learn more, too! You can watch a video about them together, like this one:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKficmlxzal>

After you watch it, comment on it and ask your child about facts that called their attention. You can also ask your son or daughter to spot the English words they know.





## Citizenship Student's Book page 52

### • Get Ready

The citizenship focus in this topic is helping others. Studies show that people are happier when they feel they are helping others, for example, donating toys.

### • Prepare a *Donation Box*

Talk to your child about the importance of helping and being kind to others and donating toys to children who can't afford to buy them. Tell them they will look for some toys to donate and will clean them, separate them and add batteries to the ones which need them. Once you have done that, put them in a box and take them to a place which usually receives donations, like a church, organisation, orphanage or wherever you deem appropriate.



## Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) Student's Book page 54

### • Get Ready

It is always interesting to get to know about animals, their habitats and eating habits. Children always find this fascinating. Ask them where in the house pets usually stay and what they eat.

Children almost always want to have pets but many times, they are not ready to take the responsibility it takes to do so. Go over the actions one has to take when owning a pet.

### • Make a *Pet Care calendar*

Together with your children, go over the actions they should follow to take care of their pets. You can stick or hang a calendar in a visible place at home and write down these actions: *Play (with your pet), (Give your pet) food and water, Clean (your pet), (Take your pet to the) vet* and any other you can think of. They can also draw a picture representing the action. They should mark Play and Food and water every day but Vet once a month, for example.

| JANUARY 2022            |                         |                         |                                    |                         |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sun                     | Mon                     | Tue                     | Wed                                | Thu                     | Fri                     | Sat                     |
| FOOD & WATER<br>26 PLAY | FOOD & WATER<br>27 PLAY | FOOD & WATER<br>28 PLAY | FOOD & WATER<br>29 PLAY<br>2 CLEAN | FOOD & WATER<br>30 PLAY | FOOD & WATER<br>31 PLAY | FOOD & WATER<br>1 PLAY  |
| FOOD & WATER<br>2 PLAY  | FOOD & WATER<br>3 VET   | FOOD & WATER<br>4 PLAY  | FOOD & WATER<br>5 PLAY<br>5 CLEAN  | FOOD & WATER<br>6 PLAY  | FOOD & WATER<br>7 PLAY  | FOOD & WATER<br>8 PLAY  |
| FOOD & WATER<br>9 PLAY  | FOOD & WATER<br>10 PLAY | FOOD & WATER<br>11 PLAY | FOOD & WATER<br>12 PLAY            | FOOD & WATER<br>13 PLAY | FOOD & WATER<br>14 PLAY | FOOD & WATER<br>15 PLAY |

## A Toy with Objects at Home

Making a toy with objects at home will be great fun and an opportunity for you and your child to talk about recycling and the fact that a toy does not necessarily need to be expensive.

- **Get Ready**

Talk with your child about the importance of recycling for the planet. Also speak about the fact that the function of toys is to play and feel happy. To do that, it is not necessary that the toy be expensive. Sometimes, when you make your own toys you can have fun just making them!

- **Make a Toy with Objects at Home**

Together with your son or daughter, decide which toy you would like to make. Your source of inspiration can also be material you have at home and would like to recycle. You can also have a look at these ideas:

<https://artscraftsymom.com/diy-toys-to-make-at-home/>

Get the necessary material, follow the steps suggested and make the toy. You can also add this toy to the donation box!

