

Dear Parents,

Welcome to *Open Day 3 Home Connection*. This is another way for you to be more involved in your child's learning. It's full of simple and fun ideas that you can do at home with your child. The support you give your child at home will help ensure his or her success at school.

Each level of *Open Day* has got four topics. The first topic in *Open Day 1* is called **Getting Out**. In this topic, your child will learn to talk in English about outdoor activities, sports equipment and the weather. The **Topic Preview Activity** is a good opportunity for you to show your child that you are interested in what he or she is learning in the English class.

In each level, *Open Day* features an animal that is or has been endangered. In Level 3, the featured animal is the giant panda. Giant pandas are actually a conservation success story. Did you know that their numbers are increasing? There were around 1000 wild pandas in the late 1970s, but today there are almost 2000. Giant pandas appear in the *Good Buddies* comic strip in the Student's Book and have associated **Animal Activities** in *Home Connection*.

Open Day teaches your child more than just English. In the **Mindfulness** section your child will learn to focus on the present moment. This will help him or her to concentrate and to manage his or her emotions. It also increases their self-esteem. In Topic 1 of this level, your child will learn to focus on different senses as they do physical activities. The **Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)** section helps your child make links with other subjects through English. This section focuses on different subjects your child studies at school and teaches him or her something new about that subject using English. In this topic, we will work with the subject of geography, where your child will learn fun facts about the different seasons. The **Citizenship** section continues this theme by exploring the value of being prepared.

The **Closing Activity** is a way of reviewing the theme of the topic and drawing the various learning goals together. In this topic, you will help your child make an appreciation jar. In this way, your child develops his or her creativity while making something useful.

You don't have to do the activities all at once.

We recommend that you try each one after your child has completed the corresponding sections in their 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 12–13

Getting Out

The freedom to play outside is important for children. Doing outdoor activities improves your child's physical, psychological and emotional well-being. Plus, they'll sleep better after getting some fresh air!

- **Get Ready**

Part 1

Talk about your child's favourite outdoor activities. Ask your child: *What's your favourite thing to do outside? How often do you do it? Do you need special equipment for it? Where do you keep the equipment at home?*

Part 2

Ask your child to say what seasons your country has got and how the weather changes in each season. Then play *Wardrobe Detectives*. Look at the clothes in your child's wardrobe. Get him or her to say which of the clothes he or she wears in the different seasons. Then do the same for your wardrobe.

- **Time to Get Outside!**

Get your child to calculate how much time he or she spends doing outdoor activities. Every time they do an activity outside, tell your child to write the name of the activity on a piece of paper and then write the amount of time he or she spent on it. Then check how much time he or she spent on the different activities at the end of the week. Go with your child to either watch or participate in as many of the activities as you can.

Animal Activity Unit 1 Student's Book pages 16–17

- **Get Ready**

Climbing is a great way to enjoy the outdoors. It's fun and challenging. Taking calculated risks is an important part of your child's development and builds confidence and self-esteem. Good climbers also have got a good sense of balance and strong arms. Doing handstands is good training for climbing. Watch the video on how to do handstands:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpT3MFxg8rA>

- **Go Wall Climbing**

Why don't you try out the handstand exercises from the videos? For safety reasons, make sure to do it slowly, in a safe place and supervise your child well. If there is a climbing wall in your neighbourhood, you could go along for a try. You and your child might like it. You might even be as good as the pandas one day!

Did you know that pandas love climbing? They are also surprisingly very good swimmers. And even though they rest a lot of the time, sometimes you can see male pandas having fun doing handstands against trees!



Mindfulness Student's Book page 20

- **Get Ready**

The Mindfulness theme for this topic is mindful focus. Encouraging your child to use all their senses to be aware of what is around them helps them to focus on the present moment. It's a good idea to review the five senses with your child: sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste.

- **What's in the Bag? Challenge**

Here is an idea that combines mindful focus with being outdoors. If there's a park or forest near your place, go for a walk with your child. Go slowly. Encourage them to look, touch, listen and smell carefully. Then try a *What's in the bag?* challenge. Put some things from your walk in a cloth bag. Make sure these are things that you are allowed to take. Have your child guess what each item is by touching and smelling it through the cloth.

Animal Activity Unit 2 Student's Book pages 30–31

- **Get Ready**

Ask your child what fun activities he or she can do during winter and which one he or she likes the most. What other activities can you do?

Did you know that unlike most bears, pandas don't hibernate in winter? When the weather starts to get cold, they move to warmer areas to find food.

- **Make Some Magic Snowballs**

You can have fun exploring winter weather by making magic snowballs with your child. All you need is frozen baking soda, cold water, vinegar, and a squirt bottle. You can start by helping your child mix two parts baking soda with one part water to make fluffy snowballs. Then pour some vinegar into a squirt bottle and let your child squirt their snowballs, (it's probably best to do this outside!). The reaction between the baking soda and vinegar will cause the snowballs to fizz and bubble. You can learn more here:



<https://www.growingajeweledrose.com/2013/01/erupting-snow-recipe.html>

- **Get Ready**

Ask your child about the different seasons they learned in class. Ask: *Have we got the same seasons in our country? When do they start and finish? What activities can you do during each season?*

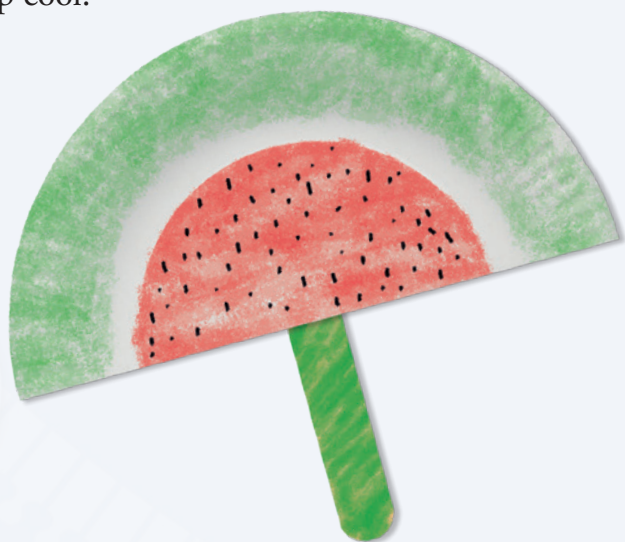
- **Seasonal Outdoor Activity Calendar**

For this activity, you will need a piece of card, a pencil and some crayons or coloured pencils. Let your child write the seasons on the card then have them think of one or two outdoor activities he or she can do during each season. Write the activities on the card and get your child to decorate it. Then hang the calendar on the wall. Try doing the activities in each of the seasons.

**Citizenship Student's Book page 38**

- **Get Ready**

Keeping cool in hot weather is not only a question of comfort. Extreme heat can be dangerous. Luckily, simple measures are often effective. Your child learned some of them in English class. Ask your child what simple things he or she can do to keep cool.



- **Make a Fun Fan**

For example, why don't you make a fun fan with your child to help him or her keep cool? You will need some paper plates, popsicle sticks, coloured pens, crayons or nontoxic paint. This video shows you how:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=001AHyuGIQw>

After you make your fan, encourage your child to decorate it with a picture of his or her favourite animal, fruit, plant, a character from his or her favourite film or a comic-style illustration.



An Appreciation Jar

Even children can sometimes become sad and dissatisfied with their lives. An appreciation jar helps remind them of all the things they have to be thankful for.

- **Get Ready**

For this activity you will need a glass jar, some coloured papers, coloured pens, a pencil and some scissors. Start by asking your child to say some of the things in his or her life that he or she could be appreciative of. Be ready to give him or her some suggestions to get them started, such as his or her friends, the family pet, a favourite toy, etc. The ideas can be something small or big; the important thing is that your child comes up with the ideas himself or herself.

- **Make your Appreciation Jar**

Cut the paper into small pieces and have your child write something they appreciate on each piece. Fold up the different pieces and put them in the jar. Then decorate the jar by sticking a piece of paper on the outside. Have your child give his or her jar a name, for example *Things I appreciate*. Then when your child is angry or sad, you can go to the jar and read through some of the notes together. Remember to give your child a hug and say how much you appreciate each other!

