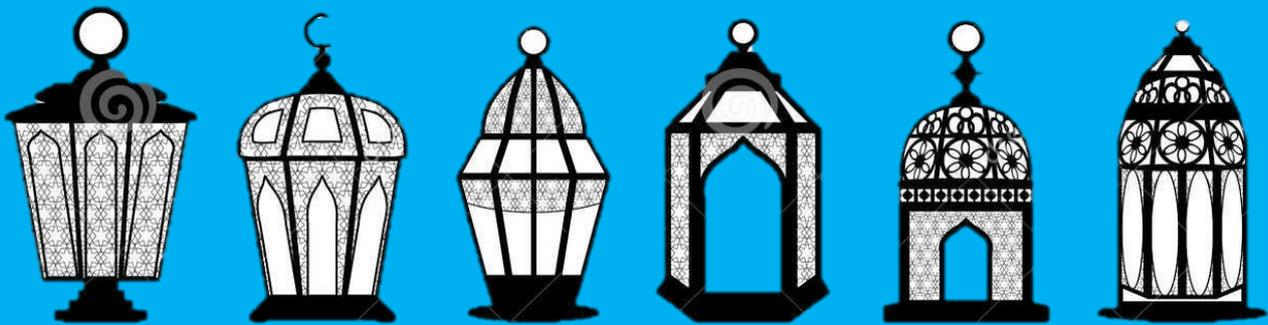




Noor ul Islam  
PRE-SCHOOL

# Ramadan Home Learning Pack



# Welcome Note

As Salaamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh,

As the month of Ramadan is fast approaching us, we have collected some more activity ideas for you to try at home with your children.

Ramadan is a great time to involve children, even if your children are not old enough to fast, you can still teach them about why we celebrate this month and involve them in other ways.

The best way to approach this is to reveal the purpose of Ramadan from an early age. This way your child will know the importance of the actions completed during Ramadan and be motivated to achieve it themselves when the time does come. It is also a great idea to teach them by involving their emotions. When a child is emotionally invested in an activity, their motivation to complete it is much higher.

All these activities centre around Ramadan, however they are all designed to develop your child's skills across the curriculum. So while they may be learning about their deen they will also be using some or all of the other areas of learning from the EYFS. For your information, the activities listed have a key below them indicating which areas of development from the EYFS the activity is promoting. The areas of development are:

*PSED* – Personal, Social and Emotional development

*CL* – Communication and Language

*PD* – Physical development

*LD* – Literacy development

*MD* – Mathematical development

*UW* – Understanding of the World

*EAD* – Expressive Arts development

These activities can be made simpler or harder based on your child's level of development. You know your child's abilities and should aim not to put any pressure on your child to do more than she/he is able to. However, introducing them to new skills in a fun play-based way, supporting them to learn the skill gradually through repetition and praise, is recommended.

Lastly please don't forget, continue reading with your children daily. Reading is an important way to develop and enrich children's attention and listening skills, understanding, vocabulary bank, communication skills, imagination, and story-telling skills.

We pray that all our families have a peaceful and fruitful Ramadan in-shaa Allah, and we can all take advantage of these unique circumstances we find ourselves in, ameen.

# Decorating DIYs

## Bunting and banners:

Decorating the home is a quick and easy way to get children excited for Ramadan. Get them involved in the decorating by helping them to make their own decorations. You can make banners/ posters/ bunting with whatever you have at home – paper, card, cereal cartons, scrap material, foil etc.

You can simply draw an outline of a suitable shape like a star or moon and get the children to decorate and mark make onto them. Attach some blue-tac or string to them and hang them around the home. For those who are able to form letters, you can ask them to make a banner/ bunting spelling out 'Ramadan'.

EYFS links: PD, EAD, LD,



## Prayer mat Craft:

It is important for our children to know about the 5 pillars of their religion. Making a paper prayer mat gives you the opportunity to talk about the importance and significance of prayer. For this craft you will need paper/card, art supplies and string/wool. This would also be possible on any old pillowcases or unwanted material.

Let your child decorate the prayer mat as they wish. You may draw an outline of a Ka'bah or any other shapes for them to colour in. With a hole-puncher or scissors make holes along the bottom and top of the mat. Children can use their hand eye coordination skills to thread through the string into each whole to make tassels.

EYFS links: PD, EAD, LD, UW, PSED

## Make your own masjid:

You can also help your children make a special quiet corner where they can go to do ibadaah. Getting them involved in the construction of the masjid and listening to their ideas of the type of material you will need, the shapes needed, how you can make it stand up etc will engage their critical thinking skills. You can use large pieces of card, or hang material, or simply make a low divider to section an area off. You can make it cosy and inviting for them by furnishing it with prayer mats for them, keep their prayer hat/scarf there, some Islamic books/puzzles, cushions, etc, and decorating it with them.

For children who are able to, you can research some patterns from masaajid around the world and try and replicate a pattern they like on their 'masjid' building.

EYFS links: PD, EAD, UW, PSED, MD, CL



## Ramadan lanterns:

Another easy decoration to add around the home are paper lanterns. All you'll need is some A4 card/paper, scissors, glue/sellotape and colouring tools. You can also add sequin, foil, stickers and fabric if you have it.



On the A4 card/paper cut a strip alongside the short end of the paper. Let your child decorate and mark make as they wish on the large piece. Once they have finished you can fold it in half (like a normal card) and draw a line going down as shown in the picture below. Then draw lines horizontally towards the line made previously and cut along those lines until you get to the vertical line. Once you have cut it, open it up and stick the two ends together with glue or Sellotape. With the strip you cut at the beginning you can now make a handle and stick it on top.



EYFS links: PD, CL, LD, EAD

# Countdowns

## Ramadan / Eid countdown:

To get children excited about Ramadan or Eid get the children to make a countdown. This will help them to develop their mathematical and writing skills.

Below are 2 ideas you could do with resources you have at home:

1. Get the children to collect, decorate and number 30 washing line pegs. On a disposable plate or a circle shaped paper get children to put the pegs in order around the circle. Then each day in Ramadan they can remove a peg, and count how many pegs are left till Eid. If you're doing this as a countdown until Ramadan then you will only need the number of pegs representing the number of days left until Ramadan e.g. 10.

EYFS links: PD, EAD, UW, PSED, MD, CL



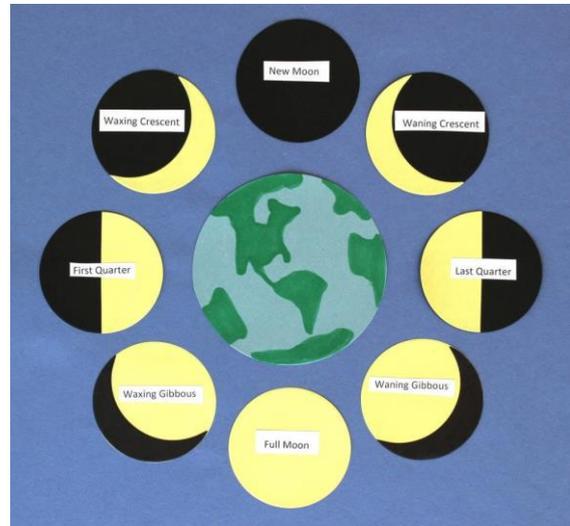
2. You will need 30 envelopes or wallets. Let the children number each envelope from 1 – 30 and then decorate them. Then stick these in order onto a board or wall with glue or blue-tac. You can fill each one with a small treat of your choice for them (these could be edible treats or small toys). Each day go to your board with your child and ask them what the date is (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> Ramadan) then ask your child to find the numbered envelope and open it for their surprise. To develop their counting skills,

they can count how many days are left until Eid by counting the number of envelopes left on the wall/board.

EYFS links: PD, EAD, UW, PSED, MD, LD, CL

# General Craft Activities

## Moon investigation:



Children can be introduced to so many scientific concepts. One easy cycle for them to follow is the moon cycle. Just like a life cycle diagram of an animal, children can have a go at making a poster displaying all the stages of a moon, e.g. New moon/sliver, crescent moon, first quarter/half moon, full moon etc. There are two examples here, try the one which you think your child is ready for.

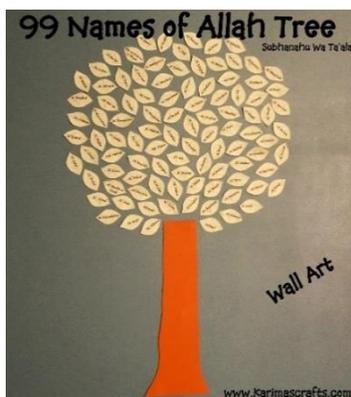
You can also take this time to explain mathematical terms (quarter, half, full), and explore space/solar system with your children!

**Tip!** It is a good idea to take time and discuss the importance of the moon for Muslim (it tells us when Ramadan has begun and ended). You can also make binoculars using 2 kitchen roll tubes/ clean Pringle tubes tied together for your child to have a go at spotting the new moon!



*EYFS links: MD, CL, UW, EAD*

## 99 Names of Allah:



Learning about the beautiful names of Allah can be an activity that benefits both parent and child. On a wall of your home (or on a large piece of card) make a bark of a tree using cardboard or any other material (or paint it on directly). Together with your child cut out small leaf shapes from paper or cardboard, and each day you can write 2 or 3 names of Allah. Before sticking it up, find out its meaning and discuss His attributes. For example, for the name AL-WAHHAAAB- The Giver of Gifts you can list some of the gifts of Allah that you and your child are grateful for etc.

*EYFS links: L, PSED, CL, UW*

## Eid Cards:



Eid cards are a fun way for children to get creative and mark make. Let them decorate their cards with different materials (foil, tissue paper, stickers, glitter, fabrics etc.). Children can try to attempt to write a message or have a go at signing their names inside. They can count how many shapes they've used and they can also help you to put them into envelopes and address them to who you are sending them to. If you will be posting them you can teach them about the postal service and how the cards will get to the recipient, they can put stamps on the envelopes and help you post them. Great gift for friends, families and neighbours too!

EYFS links: PD, EAD, UW, PSED, MD, LD

## Good Deed Chart:

Ramadan is a beautiful time to teach young children about the sunnahs of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) in terms of his kindness to others and his devotion to Allah (swt).

We recommend you choose between 5 and 8 'good deeds' (age appropriate) and talk about these with your child, i.e. make dhikr by reciting Alhamdulillah 10 times [this is a good deed as we are thanking Allah for everything He has given us], call a family member up and ask how they are [this is a good deed as we should always remember our family and be kind to them], listen and follow mummy's instructions the first time she asks you to do something [this a good deed as mothers is the most important person to us, and by listening to our mums we are pleasing Allah (swt)], smile at everyone today [the Prophet (saw) said that smiling at someone and making them happy will get us reward / 'points' with Allah] etc.

Then draw up a chart and stick it up somewhere your children can see (each child will need their own). Then using small stickers or drawing ticks at the end of each day count how many of the good deeds your child did and mark it on the chart. To encourage them you can have a small reward for them if they reach a target amount of deeds, e.g. if they do 4 out of 6 deeds they get a small sweet treat/ play with bubbles, if they do 6/6 deeds they will get to play a game of choice for 10 minutes on an electronic device. The rewards should be something motivating and different to what they can normally play with or eat.

RAMADAN RACE TO GOOD DEEDS																														
NAME: _____																														
GOOD DEED	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
I PRAYED																														
I READ THE QURAN																														
I DID A MEHE FAST																														
I HELPED WITH IFTAR																														
I GOT UP FOR SAJDOH / SERUI																														
I GAVE IN CHARITY																														
I WENT TO THE HARSTO																														
I MADE OJA																														
I HELPED SOMEONE IN NEED																														
I MADE SOMEONE SMILE																														
I DIDN'T ARGUE OR FIGHT																														
TOTAL																														
SURGE																												FINAL SCORE: _____		

The idea of doing it this way is to keep the deeds simple and to a small manageable number so it's easier to encourage your children to do them every day. This way it becomes embedded in their character and they can easily continue to do them even after Ramadan. If your children find the initial deeds you choose easy to do every day, then you can add more half-way through Ramadan to keep them from getting bored with it.

EYFS links: PSED, CL, UW, PD

# Cooking

Cooking and baking with your children is a great experience and creates abundant learning opportunities. Children will learn and develop so many skills during the process. They can help you write the recipe, help with measuring/counting, learn about different ingredients and can develop their physical skills by helping to knead and mix. Cooking is also a good way to introduce your children to thinking about safety when handling different tools and equipment.

## Baking fun:



How about making a mehndi inspired biscuit? Simply follow a biscuit recipe of your choice and cut out a stencil of your child's hands (you can score the fingers with a knife). After baking the cookies (don't forget to talk to your children about oven safety), you're ready for decorating! You can use a fine-tipped artist's brush and a little brown/black gel food colouring to make mehndi designs on the biscuits. Or you can make icing by mixing icing sugar with a little water and food colouring of your child's choice, keeping the icing at a runny consistency but not watery thin. Then pour the icing in an icing bag or a plastic sandwich bag in a cone shape, and then pierce a small hole at the tip and use that to make designs with.



**Tip!** Here are two links to a simple shortbread biscuit and icing recipes!

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/icedbiscuits\\_3054](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/icedbiscuits_3054)

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/shortbread-biscuits>

For something simpler you could make star and moon cookies instead. You could even wrap them and send them to neighbours as a gift.

*EYFS links: PSED, MD, LD, EAD, PD, CL, UW*



## Fruit Kebabs:



Why not include your child in helping prepare treats for Iftaar? Fruit kebabs are a simple fun activity children enjoy and can be prepared earlier on in the day and kept in the fridge until Iftaar time. Simply ask your children to choose fruits of their choice (can be fresh and/or canned fruit), help them with cutting them into small chunky pieces (using a small suitable knife) and then showing them how to thread them on to wooden skewers.

This is a great activity to teach your children about managing risk safely when using tools (how to handle sharp knives and what you can and can't do with them), and about healthy eating. You can also develop your child's maths knowledge through this activity by talking about the shapes you are cutting the fruit into, size of the fruit pieces, the number of pieces of fruit on each stick, making patterns with the colours of the fruits and encouraging your child to follow the pattern, asking your child to make their own pattern. You can also introduce your children to the colours of the fruits, and if they know the English colours introduce them to the Arabic names.



As an extra treat you can melt some chocolate and drizzle them on top of the skewers at the end as a special treat!

*EYFS links: PSED, CL, UW, EAD, MD, PD*

## Iftaar Sandwiches:

Encourage your child to keep a mini fast from breakfast to lunch (or however long they can manage, but no longer than 2.5/3 hours), talking to them about why we fast. Then just before their 'iftaar' time get them to help you make their iftaar. Allow them to choose their choice of sandwich filling, then encourage them to make the sandwich by spreading the spread on the bread, adding any toppings on (chopping them if needed), and the second slice of bread, then helping them cut their sandwich in half.

Allowing children to use a butter knife to learn to spread soft cheese, or butter, or hummus for example, on bread develops their fine motor skills and coordination, which in turn supports their handwriting.



*EYFS links: PSED, CL, PD, UW*