Play castles at home!

Here are 16 play activities to get you started. Share your own ideas with us online using #LearningWithHES.
Masons, who built castles, carved special marks into their stones.

Can you invent and draw your own mark? Or trace it with your finger on the wall?
Mary Queen of Scots became queen when she was 6 days old.

If you were a king or queen, what rules would you make?
The job of a jester was to make people laugh!

Can you take turns to do a funny noisy action, with each person adding on a new one?
Hold out your pretend plate and explain what you’ve prepared for a special feast.

Make it as disgusting or as delicious as you like!
People who owned castles had fancy clothes.

Dress up in your finest clothes and take a picture!
Castles were busy, smelly, noisy places.

Close your eyes: imagine what you’d smell and hear in a castle long ago.
Imagine you were a king, queen, servant, guard, or jester.
Would you walk gracefully, rush past, march angrily or prance around?
Can we guess your job from how you move?
Lots of interesting shapes are used in castles.

Can you build a castle out of toy blocks or things in your recycling box?
Castles needed protecting.

Can you find the best place in your home to keep watch for enemies?
Clap along:
The lion and the unicorn were fighting for the crown
The lion beat the unicorn all around the town
Some gave them white bread and some gave them brown
Some gave them plum cake and drummed them out of town.
How would you speak if you were a king or queen?
The Castle Steward was in charge of everyone working in the castle.

Play the game Simon Says but swap it to ‘Steward Says...’

What orders would you give?
If you were a knight, what armour would you want to protect you?
Make a short story which includes these things:
Choose a key – what can you imagine it opening?

A stable door, a chest of jewels, the food store, the castle gate?
Turnbrochie: a child who turned a spit to cook meat over a fire.

How would they have felt?

This is the way we turn the spit, turn the spit, turn the spit. This is the way we turn the spit in a hot and busy kitchen.

(tune: Here we go round the Mulberry Bush)