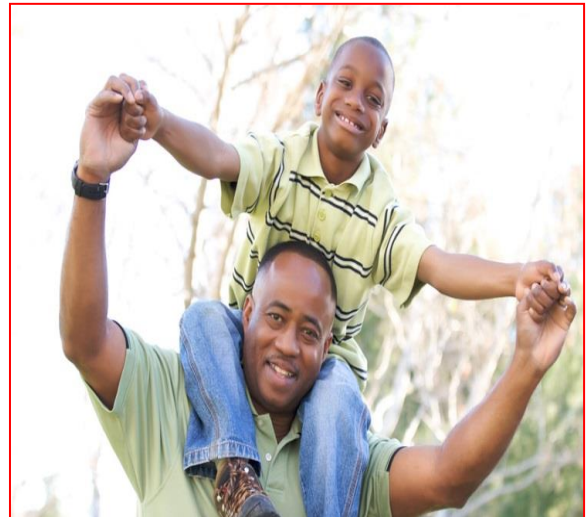




Preparing your child for school



Helping your child to prepare for School

We are really looking forward to having your child in our school and developing a long and happy partnership with you. If there is anything in this booklet that you would like to discuss further, please feel free to speak to any one of the staff at the forthcoming meetings or by telephoning the school.

On the following pages there are a variety of suggested activities you can do to help your child prepare for school.

HELP your child to gain independence

- Give your child a measure of independence by planning short periods of separation from you.

- Give them contact with other children – pre-school/playgroup experience is invaluable.

- Encourage your child:
 - To recognise their name when spoken and in print
 - To dress and undress with the minimum of help
 - To be able to put on and to do up their coat
 - To cope with his/her own toilet needs
 - To use a handkerchief/tissue properly
 - To use a knife and fork properly
 - To take care of their belongings
 - To be able to share and take turns with others
 - To put things away after use
 - To learn their first name and surname and to have some knowledge of their address
 - To develop some road sense as you travel about

HELP your child to play

- Provide opportunities for your child to develop physical control and co-ordination through climbing, hopping, skipping, jumping, rough and tumble activities i.e. soft play, throwing and catching, kicking balls, building with bricks, making models, cutting and sticking, scribbling, drawing, painting, colouring, doing jigsaws and sewing.
- Provide opportunities for your child to use their imagination, e.g. dressing up, painting, making masks, house play and playing with large boxes.
- Provide opportunities for your child to explore their environment, e.g. playing with water and sand, cooking, gardening and observing their immediate surroundings.
- Provide opportunities for your child to take turns, experience winning and losing a game and learning how to manage these emotions successfully.



PLAY with your child

Play is an important part in the basis of early learning and is an integral part of the Foundation Stage Curriculum. As parents, the involvement you have with your child as they play can support and encourage their early learning experiences. Do have fun taking the role of a character or asking your child questions about their imaginary plan/play.

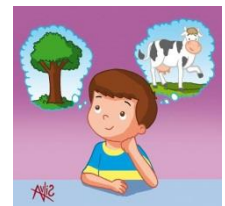
Encourage your child to LOOK and LISTEN

- Sort objects according to colours, shapes and sizes.
- Play games e.g. I Spy, Dominoes, Spot the Difference.
- Make and colour patterns.
- Read stories together. Have daily storytime.
- Watch and listen to TV and radio together, discussing performances and asking each other questions.
- Listen to music with each other.
- Join in with songs and rhymes.



Encourage your child to TALK and THINK

- Talk to your child about the things they do and see.
- Extend their vocabulary and sentence construction by example not correction.
- Talk about the things they discover, e.g:
 - ~ SHAPES and SIZES, e.g. big, narrow, tall, short, deep, shallow etc.
 - ~ COLOURS e.g. red, yellow, blue, green, black and white
 - ~ AMOUNTS e.g. few, many, less, more, how much, how little, full and empty
 - ~ SPACE e.g. up, down, under, above, in front, behind, through, along, over, on and off.
 - ~ SPEED and TIME e.g. fast, slow, early, late, soon, before, next and after.
 - ~ WEIGHT and LENGTH e.g. heavy, light, long and short.
 - ~ Help them to COUNT; not the reciting of numbers, but actual counting e.g. buttons on a coat, cakes on the table, fingers, toes and stairs to bed.
- Help your child to GUESS e.g.
 - ~ Will it float or sink?
 - ~ Will something fit?
 - ~ Are there enough biscuits?
- Welcome their questions and answer them as best you can.
- Ask them open ended questions:
 - ~ What do you think?
 - ~ What could happen next?
 - ~ What could happen if I do this?



Encourage your child to REMEMBER

- Teach your child Nursery Rhymes and songs.
- Help them to recall previous experiences.
- Encourage your child to take short verbal messages to other people.
- Play simple memory games with cards, e.g. pairs.

GIVE your child EXPERIENCES

- Share your activities with your child, e.g. cooking, cleaning, gardening, shopping and cleaning the car.
- Encourage questions.
- Try and plan opportunities to see the world around us e.g. to travel by train, upstairs on a bus, a visit to the zoo, seaside or the swimming pool.
- Use every opportunity that presents itself for talking, looking, listening, thinking, counting, reading, e.g. pointing out notices and what they say – bus stop, numbers on buses and homes, counting cars, cows or sheep, collecting and sorting flowers or shells etc.

GIVE your child OPPORTUNITIES to ENJOY LOOKING AT and LEARNING about BOOKS

- Get your child to talk about the pictures in books.
- Encourage them to look at the book, starting with the first page and ending with the last.
- Tell each other stories and rhymes.
- Look at books with them.
- Read to your child regularly.
- Encourage your child to join in with some of the words or phrases.
- Let them pretend to 'read' their favourite stories.
- Encourage them to guess what is going to happen.
- Take your child to the library to choose books.
- Be seen to enjoy books yourself.
- Make scrapbooks together.



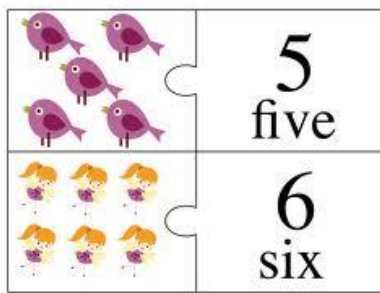
ENCOURAGE your child towards writing

- Give plenty of varied materials for drawing, tracing, colouring and painting.
- Encourage your child to write using squiggles/marks on paper. This is the beginning of writing so praise your child when they do this.
- Encourage your child to have fun 'writing', making marks and patterns in different materials e.g. in a tray of sand, foam, rice, soil, snow etc!
- Let your child make their own shopping list, write letters and messages, using the above method of recording.
- Encourage your child to hold and experiment using lots of different pens, pencils, crayons and paintbrushes.
- If your child wants to write their name, teach them to write it in lower case letters with a capital letter at the beginning.
- If your child is interested in the individual letters, it is helpful that you teach them the sound a, b, c; a as in cat, b as in bin. Useful websites for phonic games are www.phonicsplay.co.uk or www.oxfordowl.co.uk

To teach phonics and promote early reading and writing skills, we currently use the 'Read, Write, Inc.' phonics scheme.



ENCOURAGE your child to use numbers



- Play traditional board games, e.g. snakes and ladders, to encourage children to count dice and move spaces.
- Sing counting rhymes, e.g. 5 speckled frogs, 10 green bottles etc.
- Play simple number games.
- Look for and recognise numbers in the home and community, e.g. house numbers, bus numbers, birthday and receipts.
- Count at the shops.
- Look for matching shapes.
- Play games such as 'who can find the most cars, cows etc' while on journeys.
- Explore playing on a calculator.

We thank you for reading this booklet and hope it proved useful and informative. We look forward to welcoming your child into school and enhancing our partnership further.

