



# Foundation Stage - Nursery

## The Learning Journey

### Helping your child at home.

Every child develops in different ways and at varying rates. Learning is a continuous journey in which your child will build on what they have already experienced and come across new challenges.

The following information is intended to provide some guidance on how to promote your child's learning at home. However, should you need more individual advice please talk to the nursery teacher.

There will be many natural opportunities for you to talk to your child in everyday experiences. But remember learning should be fun!

# Sharing books...

- Talk about the illustrations in picture books.
- Make time to read to your child regularly and share books together. Encourage your child to predict what might happen next.
- Children enjoy stories with rhythm and rhyme, action and noise and repetitive noise or phrases.
- Read nursery rhymes and poems together. Clap the rhythm as you read.
- Let your child see you reading for your own pleasure. They will want to copy!
- Encourage your child to ask questions. Try to find the answers together in books.
- Follow the words with your fingertips as you read and your child will soon realise that the 'black squiggly bits' are telling you what to say.
- Children who learn to enjoy books when they are very young are more likely to be keen readers when they grow up.

# Be chatterboxes!

- ❖ Set aside short periods of 'special time' when you sit with your child and talk with your child.
- ❖ Talk through simple activities such as making a sandwich to develop good thinking skills.
- ❖ Look at family photographs and talk about past experiences.
- ❖ Encourage your child to talk about their day.
- ❖ Play guessing games on journeys. "What do you think you might see?" Make a list and tick off anything that you see.
- ❖ When reading new stories encourage your child to predict what might happen next.
- ❖ Ask questions, for example, 'What do you think will happen ...'
- ❖ Give your child instructions to do something, first we will..... Then .....
- ❖ Your child is learning new words everyday!

# Early writing . . .

- Play throwing and catching games. Development of large movement skills will help your child develop smaller movement skills needed for writing.
- Use ribbons to make large circular arm movements.
- Encourage your child to practise fine movement skills using jigsaws, threading beads and construction toys etc.
- Play dough and clay are excellent for encouraging fine finger movements.
- Encourage your child to peg the washing out, squeezing the pegs helps to develop a pincer grasp which is needed for writing!
- Praise any attempt to write including mark making and pretend writing. Let your child see you writing - they will want to copy you.
- Talk about your child's paintings and drawings. Write down what they have done.
- Make lists together e.g. shopping, holiday, party lists.
- Involve your child in signing cards, letters and invitations.

# Counting fun...

- Encourage your child to recite number names in order and also to sing number rhymes.
- At mealtimes, count how many knives, forks, spoons, plates and mugs are needed for the family.
- When out and about, look for numbers, e.g. house numbers, car number plates, bus numbers, road signs.
- Look for numbers in the house on food packets, books.
- When cooking or baking, encourage your child to count spoonfuls of ingredients. Talk about weighing the ingredients.
- Look at patterns on wrapping paper, clothes and packaging. Look at repeating patterns such as stripes, stars, circles.
- When playing in the bath or pouring drinks, talk about full, nearly full, empty.
- Sort the washing and match the socks. Talk about 'same' and 'different'.

# Be creative!

- ❖ Make a collage using different types of paper e.g. wrapping paper, tissue paper, coloured paper, old packaging.
- ❖ Make models from packaging materials and scraps of paper and fabrics.
- ❖ Listen to music featuring different instruments and talk about the different sounds.
- ❖ Use different words to describe textures such as soft, hard, rough, spongy.
- ❖ Provide paper, pencils, crayons, paints etc. and encourage drawing, colouring, cutting activities.
- ❖ Encourage your child to dress up and pretend to be different characters. Large cardboard boxes make excellent boats, castles, dens and houses etc.
- ❖ Print pictures and patterns using a variety of materials e.g. corks, cubes, household brushes.
- ❖ Encourage your child to sing and dance to different types of music.