

WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH PRESCHOOL

Helping your child to learn at home: We've put together some tips to encourage learning at home, this is what we're aiming for in order to be 'school ready', obviously adjust according to your child's stage of development

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

- Encourage your child to say please and thank you.
- Encourage your child to take his/her own coat on and off.
- When playing with your child, support them in sharing toys.
- Allow them to choose some toys themselves and reflect on opinions about these toys; e.g. this is my favourite doll/car.
- Encourage your child to learn to go to the toilet unaided.
- Try to support your child in taking turns with others.
- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Talk to your child about special times; birthdays, holidays and other key events in their lives and the lives of others they know.
- Talk about their surroundings; particularly in the outdoor area, what they see, hear, feel and smell.
- Allow your child to observe animals and describe them.
- Allow them to use simple tools; such as a small hand trowel.
- Encourage them to feel different textured objects and describe; rough, smooth, soft etc.

Reading and Writing

- Allow your child to select books for themselves; ones that interest him/her. Picture books with repetitive and basic language such as those by Julia Donaldson.
- Encourage your child to 'read' what is happening in the pictures. Prompt them to tell you a sentence about what is happening.
- To increase vocabulary and identify sounds: play word games such as I spy.
- Sing alphabet songs and talk about the names of the letter and the sounds that they make.
- Make shapes of letters out of play dough; write them in sand, write their own name in the air etc.
- Encourage your child to sing/say songs and rhymes and tell you their own stories.
- Ask your child about words that rhyme, e.g. house and mouse, fox, socks and box.

Mathematical Development

- Practice counting groups of objects in pictures and stories; ask questions such as how many altogether? Which number is one more?
- Count out loud with your child saying the names of numbers clearly.
- Show numbers to your child, e.g. birthday cards, house numbers, till receipts.
- Sing songs or rhymes with numbers in them; 10 In the Bed, 5 Little Ducks, 10 Fat Sausages etc.
- Read stories with numbers in them, e.g. The Very Hungry Caterpillar.
- Use mathematical language; add, take away, number names.
- Count using fingers.
- Point to and say numbers around the house.
- Encourage children to identify shapes around them; do a circle spotting hunt, cut sandwiches (rectangle - triangle), find 3D shapes etc.
- Apply mathematics to real life; shape, money, amounts of objects, cup full / empty, heavy, etc.

Physical Development

- Encourage your child to handle small and large equipment.
- Allow your child to use scissors and develop their skills.
- Allow your child to run, hop, skip, jump and find different ways of travelling.
- Play games such as follow the leader and change actions to develop motor skills and coordination.
- Discuss changes to their bodies after exercise; heart beating faster, feeling hot etc.

Creative Development

- Allow your child to listen to and sing songs and rhymes and make up their own.
- Join in role play with your child.
- Explore different crafts, messy play, paint, pencils, crayons, dough, cooking.
- Using scissors and glue; encourage cutting and sticking activities.
- Dance to songs and do actions, e.g. Wheels on the Bus, wind bobbin up, Miss Polly had a dolly.