

Hints and tips for helping your child at home

We are often asked how parents/carers can help their children at home, below are a few examples of activities that others have found helpful. We hope you find them useful.

- Encourage your child to listen to sounds they can hear when you are out and about e.g. sirens, beeping zebra crossing signs, children shouting, birds etc. Praise your child when they correctly identify a sound for excellent listening, this all helps your child when they begin to read and write later on.
- You could sing nursery rhymes and play rhyming games. These will also help your child when they come to read, they are invaluable for helping children to hear and identify the rhyming patterns within words and stories.
- Ask your child to tell you about the story we have been reading, can they retell it to you, who are the characters in the stories.
- Read to your child, with your child and encourage your child to see others reading wherever possible, introduce your child to books at the library (the children's centre and foundation stage also operate a library) and use the yellow bags the children will bring home.
- Encourage your child to count, stairs up to bed, steps to the car, people having dinner, red cars that they see etc. Ask your child if they can see any shapes on their way home from school, can they find any circles one day and maybe triangles or squares the next.
- Use next to, behind, in front of, underneath etc when describing where things are, their favourite toy. You could play hot/cold just hide a toy and describe where it is, if the child is near it they are hot etc.
- Please allow time wherever possible to allow your child to dress and undress themselves, the morning is not necessarily the best time maybe after a bath before bed. To wash themselves and tidy up their toys, this encourages valuable independence skills.

- Please remember that all children are different and learn at different rates.
- Remember to have fun, children learn through play and when they are happy. A happy child is a learning child!

If you would like any other ideas, help, support or you think of any that your child has really enjoyed and has really helped please do not hesitate to speak to a member of our staff.