

Helping your child at home

Personal Development –independence

Please encourage your child to “have a go”. They will quite happily allow you to keep getting them dressed, putting their coat on, tidying up their toys etc but they should be starting to be able to do these things by themselves.

If your child is not already toilet trained think about if they are ready to start this process. We are happy to help, just let us know when you start.

Communication and Language

Speaking, listening and understanding is very important for your child’s development in all areas of the curriculum.

Please help them by talking to them about anything and everything- in the shop, at the park, what you can see in the street, while watching television, looking at books etc

They need to learn a wide range of words, be able to form sentences to express their thoughts and ideas and be able to answer questions such as “what is it?” “who is it?” “Where is the.....?” “Why is it doing that?” “Why did that happen?”

Learning nursery rhymes is also an important part of developing language, lots of examples can be found on line. We use Mr Tumble and try to avoid any that have an American accent!

If your child still uses a dummy, please think about trying to give it away. Using a dummy can lead to very unclear speech.

Reading

Please take time to read with your child regularly. Find a quiet place/time (TV switched off) and enjoy sharing a story. Look at the pictures, talk about what you can see and what the characters are doing, ask “What do you think will happen next?” and think about what your favourite part of the story was.

Everyone has a school book bag and you can change the book as regularly as you want. You could also consider joining Stockton Library, they have a large selection of books to borrow and run free event days during the school holidays.

Phonics

Phonics starts in Nursery by encouraging the children to develop their listening skills to notice the different sounds around us. We then start to listen carefully to words to see if they contain the same sounds eg rhyming words such as **cat**, **hat**, **bat**, alliteration/beginning sounds such as **snail**, **sun**, **sausage**, **spoon** and by the end of their time in nursery they should be able to hear all of the sounds in short words eg c-u-p , c-oa-t, sh-e-ll.

There are some online games that can help with developing listening-
Phonics Bloom (phase 1 games)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/eyfs-early-years/z6bgnrd>

We will also send home ideas of games to play as we start to learn different aspects of phonics.

Writing

In order to become a writer your child needs to develop their control of a pencil. They will need lots of practice at making marks and drawing simple pictures before they might be ready to start copying your example of the first letter in their name.

Using a correct pencil grip will help your child to have more control of their pencil and will allow them to become more accurate in the marks they make. (Please see attached sheet)

You can help your child to understand why we need to write by involving them when you need to write a message, shopping list or birthday card etc and encourage them to “play write” their own messages.

Maths

Please help your child to learn to recite numbers to 10 in order. (While climbing the stairs, jumping etc)

In nursery we concentrate on learning more deeply about numbers to 5. We count items up to 5 to see “How many?”, Learn the numerals up to 5, think about which number/amount is more/fewer up to 5.

Lots of this learning can happen while playing with their toys, sharing sweets, fastening buttons etc

Number rhymes are also a good way to develop an understanding of number. Lots of these can be found on Youtube.- 5 Little monkeys, 5 little speckled frogs, 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive etc

Please remember that children will learn more if they enjoy what they are doing. Please keep it fun.