

RECEPTION CLASS
Working at home with your child

Communication and Language

- Encourage your child to help around the house, giving them a set of instructions such as:
 - Could you please get the washing up liquid from **under** the sink?
 - Can you go **upstairs** and get my handbag? It's **on** the end of the bed.
- Ask your child to explain about past and future events:
 - Do you remember where we went last weekend?
 - Do you know what day it is tomorrow?
- Encourage your child to express their feelings and emotions in different situations.
- Try to support your child to listen in variety of situations. E.g. In a shop, play park or family gathering.
- Ask your child questions about their imaginary play.
 - Who are the characters?

The prime areas



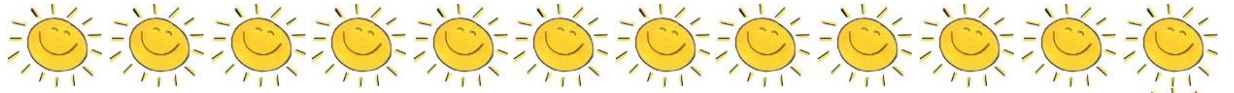
Physical Development

- Encourage your child to handle small and large equipment.
- Allow your child to use small scissors and develop their cutting skills.
- Allow your child to run, hop, skip, jump and find different ways of moving.
- Talk to your child about different environments, how to be safe and move freely. E.g. the Park, cycle path, swimming pool.
- Play games such as follow the leader and get them to repeat your actions to develop balance and coordination.
- Discuss changes to their bodies after exercise; heart beating faster, feeling hot etc.
- Encourage your child to eat a healthy range of food- fruit, vegetables etc.
- Allow your child to use play dough to develop their finger strength.

Personal, Social and Emotional

- Encourage your child to say please and thank you.
- Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves on their own.
- When playing with your child, support them in sharing toys and encourage them to tidy up.
- Allow them to choose some toys themselves and talk about their opinions of these toys; e.g. this is my favourite doll/car.
- Try to support your child in taking turns with others.
- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings.
- Encourage your child to say when they do and don't need help.





Mathematics

- Practice counting groups of objects in pictures and stories; pose 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 (perhaps on number cards).
- Sing songs and rhymes with numbers in them; 10 In The Bed, 5 Little Ducks, 10 Fat Sausages, 20 Green Bottles etc.
- Read stories with numbers in them, e.g. The Very Hungry Caterpillar.
- Use mathematical language; add, take away, double, half, share and number names.
- Count using fingers. Count using anything and everything- claps, jumps, steps.
- Point to and say numbers around the house.
- Encourage children to identify and talk about shapes around them.
- Apply mathematics to real life; shape, money, amounts of objects etc.
- Compare things, which are heavy and light, long and short.
- Allow your child to become familiar with money (handle coins & notes).
- Talk about time- different times of day, week, month and year.

The specific areas

Understanding the World

- Talk to your child about the places they go and the things they see in the world around them or on television.
- Talk about special times in their lives and the lives of others they know, e.g. birthdays, religious events.
- Encourage them to explore their surroundings; particularly in the outdoor area.
- Allow your child to observe animal/plants and describe them.
- Allow them to use simple tools; such as a small gardening tools.
- Encourage them to feel different textured objects and describe the texture, shape and colour; rough, smooth, soft, etc.
- Answer and ask questions: what if? Why do you think? How did you?

Literacy

- Allow your child to select books for themselves; ones that interest him/her.
- Encourage your child to 'read' what is happening in the pictures. Prompt them to tell you a sentence about what is happening.
- Support your child in reading sounds, words and eventually sentences in books.
- 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.
- Point out illustrations, advertisements and print in books and the environment.
- Practice writing their own name and letters of the alphabet.
- Use the **English Alphabet website** to learn letter sounds and shapes (see attached sheet for details).
- Help your child to complete their sound and handwriting homework.

Creative Development

- Allow your child to listen to and sing songs and rhymes.
- Engage in role-play with your child, creating stories with toys.
- Explore different media; paint, pencils, crayons.
- Allow your child to use scissors and glue and encourage cutting and sticking activities.
- Dance to songs and make up actions to them, e.g. Wheels on the Bus.
- Encourage your child to make music out of everyday items-pots & pans.

