

### **School readiness tips for Home learning children**

#### ***Help your child to clearly demonstrate their ability to listen and follow age appropriate instructions;***

- Ask them to help with tasks around the house, give them simple instructions.
- Fetch / put away their own shoes and coat.
- Tidy their toys away.
- Take their cups and plates to the sink.
- Give them two part instructions, e.g. "Please could you get me the football and then put your shoes on."

#### ***Children should show interest in a variety of subjects, paying attention to the subject or activity that they are taking part in;***

- Help your child to focus on short activities without distractions, find somewhere that it is quiet to gain their attention.
- Encourage your child to engage in a variety of short learning activities during the day. (Look at the different areas of our Home Learning activities for ideas.)

#### ***Previous feedback from the Primary school reception teachers asked that we help the children to develop their;***

- Scissor skills- To use the correct scissor grip with good control.
- Pencil control- Use a tripod grip with reasonable control, e.g. draw a circle.
- Numeracy- To recognize numerals up to 13 (match numeral and quantity up to 13.)
- Maths- Practice counting actual objects rather than just using number names.
- Fine motor skills- Provide opportunity for motor skill activity, e.g. threading, peg boards etc.
- Phonics- Don't be worried about reading and writing, but work on the sounds in words.

#### ***Encourage your child to use a range of vocabulary and language to express their needs, feelings, thoughts and ideas;***

- There are some great You tube online books about starting school, e.g. Topsy and Tim go to school.
- When talking about school think about words that children might not have heard before and explain what they mean, e.g. What is an "assembly?" What does "taking the register" mean? What does PE mean? What is a PE kit?
- Engage in school classroom role-play, they could pretend to be a teacher and take the register and read books to their teddies, or they could be the student and dress up in their uniform with their bag and lunch box. You could create an area with a desk and a chair with writing and drawing equipment.
- Talk about going to school, ask them what they are excited about? Ask them if they feel worried or sad about going to school? What will make them happy when they go to school?
- Talk to your child about their feelings and emotions.

***Children should be able to identify themselves by name, age, state factors in their life, name family members etc;***

- Your child should be able to recognise their own name, maybe they can start to write the letters in their name.
- Children should be able to recognise their own belongings, e.g. coats, bags, lunch box, hat, (think about labelling items to help.)
- Encourage your child to talk about the people who are important to them and to talk freely about past experiences.
- Does your child know some children who go to Primary school, they could talk to them and find out what they like to do at school.

***Help your child to interact, share and play, taking responsibility for their own actions;***

- Play lots of games and activities that involve turn-taking and sharing.
- Talk about fair and unfair situations, children's feelings about fairness and how we can make things fair.
- Model and involve children in finding solutions to problems and conflicts, e.g. "I feel angry at the moment, so I am going to calm myself down and...."

***Children should observe, notice and discuss and ask questions about their environment;***

- Can you discuss with your child how you will get to school, will you drive, walk, or cycle to school?
- Could you take your child on the route to school and talk about all of the things that you see and pass along the way.
- Take your child to the school and have a look from the outside, show them where they will go each morning, look at the building and at all of the classrooms and see what is hanging in the windows, maybe you can see the playground?

***Engage and read books to help your child to have some understanding of words and language;***

- Spend quiet times with your child enjoying books together.
- Children will benefit from listening to books and stories, this might include non-fiction books about things that they are interested in.
- Talk about the book, talk about the title and cover and ask your child what they think might happen. After reading ask your child what they liked about the story.
- Ask 'how' and 'why' questions, e.g. "How did the bear get across the river?" "Why was the fox cross?"
- Read rhyming books and talk about rhyming words, e.g. a bat, a hat, a cat, a mat. You can support your child to hear the sounds in words by incorporating words that don't rhyme, e.g. a bat, a hat, a bird etc.

***Help your child to develop their health and self-care needs;***

- Independent toileting and asking to go to the toilet.
- Washing own hands.
- Dry own hands.
- Blow their own nose.
- Put on / take off their coat and shoes
- Dress and un-dress themselves.
- Practice changing into a PE kit.
- Practice carrying their own bag and lunch box.
- Practice eating with cutlery and carrying their own cups and plates.
- Practice opening and closing lunch box and containers.
- Practice using zips and buttons.
- Get your child into regular routines, mornings and evenings.