

June 2020

Dear Nursery Parents,

I hope you are all well and that you and your family are staying safe during this unsettling time.

I'm writing this because I would like you to start thinking about September and how you can help your child get prepared for life in Reception. Going from 3 hours a day to over 6 hours a day is a big step for little people and it's important to be as ready as you can. I am sure that during this challenging time you may well be worried so I hope this helps a bit.

First of all, and this is really fundamental, please make learning fun for your child, be active, play, explore, smile and laugh. Most of the time children do not even realise they are learning in the nursery and try and do the same at home.

Independence:

Initially, please think about how independent your child is.

- Can they get dressed and undressed and put their shoes and coat on independently.
- Can they turn their clothes the right way around, so they are not inside out?
- Can they get a sweatshirt on and off and do buttons, socks and zips?
- Can they go to the toilet and wash their hands properly by themselves? They should wash their hand for about that length of time it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice, and they should wash the back, front, in-between fingers and thumbs.
- Can they use a knife and fork to cut up their food?

Do this at two or three times every week and before you know it, they will be independent little people not wanting you to help them. It might take them a little longer but this is a huge investment. Not having to ask the teacher for help is a big self confidence booster.

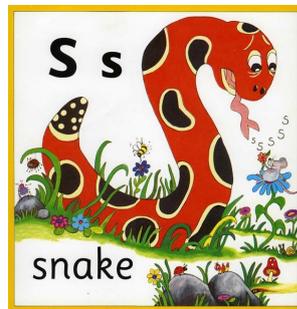


Reading and Writing:

In Reception the children will be learning how to read and write. Both are at the heart of the curriculum and listening to stories, poems and rhymes is essential and will feed their imagination.

Hearing Sounds around them:

- Sit in a circle with the family and blindfold your child (maybe you do it first and only blindfold them if they want to). Can they identify who is talking?
- Go for a listening walk, what sounds can you hear in the environment?
- Can they hear syllables? Clap out their name 'Deb-bie', or other words 'Rain-bow, But-ter-fly, sun-shine' etc



Hearing Initial Sounds:

- Play eye-spy. Try and include the sounds S A T P I N. "I spy with my little eye something beginning with S"
- Play alliteration games. What objects have the same sound at the beginning of the word? Sand, sausages, socks etc.
- Make a sound table. Write the letter 'S' and put things on the table that begin with that letter. If your child wants to put something on the table that does not begin with 'S' then divide the table into two and on one side put the things that begin with S and on the other side 'Things that do not begin with S.
- Use mirrors so they can see the shape their mouth makes when they say a letter sound. What shape is your mouth when you make the sounds of a snake?
- Start to encourage your child to trace and copy the letters in sand, foam or on paper.

Begin to blend:

- Speak to them modelling how to blend— 'Put on your S-O-CK, turn on the T-A-P. Can I have a K-I-SS? Give dad a H-U-G. Get into B-E-D. It's fun and easy and they are learning without even knowing it.

Rhyme:

- Can they hear rhyme in stories? (Julia Donalson books are great for this!)
- Can they finish off the repeated part of the story or the rhyme?
For example

The witch had a cat and a very tall? (hat)

Over the fields and the forest's they flew
The dog wagged his tail and the stormy wind?(blew)

Writing names:

Before we went into lockdown all the children were given their 'dotty names'. Are they writing their name yet?

- Use lots of different mediums—like flour, sand, paint, water, on the ground with chalk, pens, pencils or paints.
- Put the letters of their name around the room or garden. Can they find them and put them in the correct order?

Language:

It's vital that your child can communicate with their teacher when they begin in Reception class.

- If English is not your first language try to spend some time everyday speaking some English.
- Do they know the difference between his and her? Me and I?
- Do they know their prepositions? *In, on, under, beside, above, in-between*



Useful websites for reading and writing:

- Phonics play
- Topmarks
- Letters and sounds
- Jolly phonics phase 2 (on you tube)
- Julia Donalson's page



Maths:

Maths is also at the heart of the curriculum. It should also be made fun. Your child needs to be able to:

Count up to 10 objects

Recognise the numerals up to 10

Begin to write the numerals up to 10

- Play lots of turn taking games.
- Play games with dice—they will start to match match the dot patterns with numbers.
- Involve them in real life mathematical problems—"There are 3 of us in the family and we all want two strawberries each. Can you give that many strawberries to each of us? How many are there?"
- Go on a number hunt around your local area—what numbers can you see?
- Go on a shape hunt around your local area and take photos of the shapes you find.
- Sing number songs.
- Count everything—your steps, your teddies, your blocks etc...
- Write numbers in different media—sand, chalk, water etc...
- Sort objects by colour or size.



Useful websites for Maths:

- Topmarks
- Many songs on youtube—type in 'counting songs' into your search engine.
- The Maths Factor

I hope this information helps you a little. I have missed speaking to all you parents and I have especially missed the children. Please let them know that I am thinking about them and missing their smiley faces. Take care of yourselves and your family and stay safe.

Very kind regards
Debbie