

## PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

### PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE

Children will benefit from being as independent as possible when they start school. Staff will be available to help them but children will get a real sense of achievement if they are able to accomplish things themselves. For example being able to dress and undress independently will mean more time to have fun in PE; putting on and fastening coats and shoes will mean the children are able to make the most of the time available.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

#### *Counting and one-to-one*

Being able to count out loud to 10 (and beyond) will be useful to your children and also learning to count backwards. One to one counting can take place during normal daily activities such as counting the steps as you climb the stairs or how many houses have red doors? To help children understand what numbers mean ask them to find the same number of different items, eg: 3 spoons, 3 socks. Counting rhymes are also a brilliant way for children to learn about and enjoy numbers.

#### *Shape, Size & Quantity*

Talk about size and shape - can you pass me the smallest shoe, or biggest box. How many cars fit in the box? Look for shapes all around - what shape is the window or the plate?

### COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

**Many parents worry if their child will be able to tell the teacher if they need something or if they will make friends. Good communication skills underpin these abilities. We know that parents can have a huge impact on their child's talking and listening development and the summer is a perfect time for trying out simple language boosting activities**

#### Listening & Attention Skills

Children will be given many spoken instructions throughout the day and will have to shift their attention from what they are doing to listen to the teacher. Going for 'listening walks' where children talk about the different sounds they hear - at the park or in town.

#### Understanding Spoken Instructions

Instructions can often contain several parts for children to remember. Playing games such as 'Simon Says' can really help, especially if you build up gradually to giving longer instructions. For example: Simon Says touch your nose, then clap your hands, then put them on your head.

#### Vocabulary Development

Children will be expected to start extending their vocabulary. Sorting games help with word categorisation. Sorting items into different piles such as clothing, toys, things for washing ourselves. Outdoor treasure hunts work well, looking for different objects and talking about them helps to extend vocab.

#### Narrative Skills

Children will be encouraged to use language to organise and sequence events. Take photos then ask your children to put them in the correct order and retell the story. Model words like first, last, next, before and after - this will help children understand the past, present and future tenses. At bedtime you could ask children if they remember what they have done that day.

#### Reading & Writing

Teachers do not expect children to know their alphabet or read or write when they start school. Rhyming activities and identifying the sounds that letters make along with learning to recognise their name will support the skills needed for reading.

Activities involving fine motor skills support the muscles and co-ordination needed for writing. This includes threading beads or pasta and completing puzzles.