

## Preparing for School... Activities - April 2015

This month we are going to continue our focus on Communication & Language, Literacy, Physical, Personal, Social & Emotional Development.

The new tests (baseline assessments) that will be done on children when they start reception class will check their literacy and numeracy skills. We would like to reassure you that we are not 'teaching to a test' ... we are simply providing your child with lots of opportunities to have fun with Literacy and Numeracy here at Grafton Childcare.

If you have any questions or want to know more about what your child is doing, please read the detailed planning sheets which we add to the end of each weeks blog, the codes in each weeks plans link directly to the Developmental Matters Outcomes and you can read all about these in your A4 EYFS Parents" Code Book which you have at home or it is always attached to the bottom of each weeks blog if you have mislaid your copy. Thank you.

All the fun and games your child has been having with Communication & Language and Literacy is key to learning to read at school as your child's teacher takes their strong grounding in Phonics, Listening and Attention, Understanding, Speaking, Reading and Writing and all the rest and turns it into Phonics lessons. It is so important that children enjoy Communication & Language and Literacy - experts tell us that workbooks, when used on their own, can turn children off learning so we use lots and lots of games, stories, songs and role play to consolidate learning or teach something new - and very very occasional work sheets as part of a Communication & Language and Literacy rich curriculum rather than the only resource we provide.

Here are some games you can play with your child at home to support theirs Communication & Language and Literacy and help prepare them for learning at school...

- Read a book together - we now have 100 **Going Home Book Bags** in our collection and we are sending these home with the children each week, you are very welcome to borrow them. See the full article on our bags for more details.
- Next time you go for a walk spot letters on shops and signs, point them out and have a go at reading them together phonically.
- Sing songs together, it does not matter if you can't sing, just enjoy singing together.

Most importantly of all - have fun with Communication & Language and Literacy