

Preparing for School... Activities - December 2014

When children start school, they need to be able to share, take turns, understand how to play in a group, negotiate with other children, join in conversations and make friends. These essential social skills will allow them to cope better in a busy group environment. Your child has already been offered lots of opportunities to learn these social skills because they go on outings with you and we regularly take them out and about to explore our locality and to play.

During December and through the following months we are going to be focusing on making sure your child achieves the 'typical behaviours' in Early Years Outcomes for personal, social and emotional development - developing their self-confidence and awareness, helping them to manage their feelings and behaviour and understanding how to make appropriate relationships. With these skills securely in place, they will be able to positively approach other children and make friends, participating in group play and being able to deal with any conflicts that happen around them.

To monitor your child's social development, we will chat to you about how they are getting on at home, when you are signing your child in and out of their sessions. We will talk to you about their social interactions outside the provision and we will share information with you about how they share toys and equipment, take turns during games, express their needs during play and when talking to an adult, ask and answer questions, follow directions, understand rules during group games etc, via your child's **Communication Book**. It would be very useful if you could share with us the same information via your child's "**My Favourite Things**" pages in your child's **Communication Book**, during the next few months, before your child starts school in September.

We will continue to plan lots of activities to support your child such as:-

- Visiting our locality and going on lots of outings.
- Playing games that encourage your child to share and take turns.
- Organising activities during which your child has to listen carefully and follow instructions.
- Modelling social interactions during role play.
- Giving them strategies to use so they can negotiate and solve problems.
- Helping your child to express their needs appropriately.
- Asking your child to wait a few moments before their needs are met.
- Teaching your child that their words and actions might hurt others.
- Using the boundaries that your child's school will follow to support their learning.

We will be observing your child's progress carefully to help them prepare for next September and the big adventure of school, both in the classroom and playground. To support them at home, it can be helpful to meet up with friends who will be in the same class as your child at school. This will ensure they have a set of friends they are looking out for as they can be confident when they take those first steps on their new adventure.