

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

Before a child can develop phonic knowledge they need to have lots of experience of handling books, reading stories with adults, playing with storytelling and role playing. Through listening to and joining in with stories they will learn to enjoy books and being read to which will, in turn, help them to develop an understanding of how stories work.

When looking at pictures and reading to children we always point to the words. This will help children learn that the squiggles at the bottom of the page relate to the sounds we are making. We can then develop this by opening out individual letters - usually ones that mean something to the child like the initial letter of names they know well - and sounding them out so children copy.

We always use the phonic alphabet when reading to children - they need to learn a, b, c, before they can start to learn capital letters. If we do use a capital letter we will say, so example. "My name is Lara - it starts with L which sounds like l".

We play lots of phonics games with your children such as:-

- Reading our 'Jolly Phonics' books and talking about the letters and Singing our "Jolly Phonics" songs daily
- Making up rhyming words - sometimes with hilarious results!
- Challenging children with letter puzzles and jigsaws
- Tracing and writing letters in sand and play dough
- Playing 'I spy' and guess the letter games
- Fun alphabets featuring, for example, animals and stickmen to complement your child's interests
- We have focus letters linked to our themed activities - for example, we recently had a topic on the Gruffalo and we looked for all the toys in our playroom that start with a 'g'
- Spotting words and labels (environmental print) when we go to Courtney Park, Newton Abbot Library, Decoy Park or Sainsburys Local
- Singing songs and rhymes to learn words and sounds in fun ways
- Playing games from 'Letters and Sounds phase 1\*' such as 'Rhythm Safari' and 'Silly Soup'
- We love playing phonics games, signing songs and reading books with your children and they tell us that they read lots of books at home too! Please let us know your child's favourite books so we can complement their learning while they are here... you can do this each month via your child's My Favourite Things In ..... Have Been pages which can be found in your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet. Have you completed your child's for last month yet?
- Reading a vast array of books each week linked into our weekly topics and books which the children have brought in from home which we share during our daily circle time activities.

\*You can read a copy of Letters and Sounds phase 1, as we have added it to our list of documents at the bottom of this week's blog.