

Preparing for School... Activities - November 2014

We hope your child enjoyed some of the independence activities we suggested last month. Please let us have lots of feedback about what they are doing and saying at home so we can support their learning while they are here! we are consistently promoting a 'can do' attitude to learning and you might hear your child saying 'yes I can' and "I can do it' at home as they are encouraged to try to do things by themselves.

During November and over the coming months we will be working towards developing your child's concentration skills. Most 2 year olds have the concentration span of a butterfly, fluttering from one activity to the next and leaving chaos in their wake. As they get older and they are involved in activities to support their learning here and at home, we notice that they start to enjoy sitting and listening and learning for slightly longer periods of time, as long as their needs have been met and they are not hungry or tired.

In school children need to be able to sit and listen and leaner. Ofsted expect early years providers to increase the number of adult led and guided activities as children move towards being ready for school, planning sessions that focus on each child's current outcomes - the things we are working on with them - to give them the best opportunities to succeed when they start school.

During November and in the months to come your child will be involved in daily...

- Craft and creative activities such as drawing, cutting, using glue and playing with play dough - with an adult who sits and chats and create with them.
- Singing and dancing sessions that involve sitting, listening to and following instructions.
- Reading books and telling stories with puppets that follow their interest and support their learning.
- Listening games using our 'Jolly Phonics' books, cd's and resources as well as our Phase 1 Letters and Sounds activities.

We commit to turning off background noise, putting the toys away and sitting and playing individual and group games with your child every day! We will play games and talk to them about something they are interested in, we will listen too them about something they are interested in, we will listen to them and we will plan activities linked to what they are telling us. Why not plan a quiet session to chat at home every day? Your child will enjoy playing word games such as 'Simon says' and "I spy' and they will love it when you join in their role play, making you cups of tea or asking you to play their game with them.

Please let us have lots of feedback so we can use their home interests in our planning, have you completed a "My Favourite Things" page for October yet? Please do as the information you provide will be really useful for your child's Key Worker to plan activities for your child. Thank you!

Oh and remember in October we were focusing on the following activities with your child, well we are still doing them and hope you are still doing them at home!

- Putting on their own coat - hood on the head, reach back to put arms in one at a time.
- Putting on and fastening up their shoes - Velcro are much easier for everyone! Half a sticker in each shoe can help them go on the right feet.
- Managing their own lunches - your child will be taking turns to help pour their own drinks, share out fruit during morning and afternoon snack, as well as using cutlery at lunch and dinner times rather than fingers.
- Toileting and hand washing and drying their hands properly afterwards.
- Changing clothes after playing outside or getting wet - even if they go ion back to front.
- Doing up zips (we will start them off to begging with) and fastening buttons.

- Talking to and sharing ideas with a group of children, during circle time and focused activities.

We do not expect to start practicing all these skills on Monday and Tuesday and have them consolidated by Wednesday... we are going to be thinking about them from now until next August, encouraging and supporting them a little at a time until they are able to manage independently.