

School Readiness

Dear Parent/Carer

We have recently met with a local school about how we can best prepare your child for their transition to school. Previously we have completed a school readiness checklist provided externally in the summer term, however we feel that in partnership with yourselves, there may be things that your child is ready to try or can already do ahead of this. With this in mind we have put together the below list of things to work towards ahead of starting school.

(please note that we recognise all children are different and therefore develop differently – please speak to your child’s keyworker if you have any questions. Through next steps we will continue to work together to support your child to reach their potential).

Self care

- **Using the toilet on their own.** (Children of this age do continue to have ‘accidents’ from time to time, but it is helpful if they have the skills to take themselves to the toilet). This includes wiping their own bottom and washing their hands with soap afterwards.
- **Dressing and undressing themselves.** At some point they will need to get themselves ready for PE lessons or may be required to get changed after messy/water play. Working on putting on their own clothes and shoes promotes independence. Beginning to support your child to fasten poppers, buttons and zips may take a little longer to learn, but it never hurts to give them the opportunity to try.
- **Speaking.** Encouraging your child to ask, comment and make suggestions will help develop their confidence and ability to communicate their needs with adults around them. To assist with your child’s speech development, adults around them should encourage and model the correct pronunciation of sounds; discouraging ‘baby talk’.

If you have any concerns about your child’s speech please speak to your child’s keyworker.

Reading/writing/maths

- **Recognising their own name when written down.** It’s really helpful for children to recognise their name for their pegs, school books and tray/drawers. Having their written name around the home will help with this. Writing their own name also helps them to take ownership of work and will also promote independence.
- **Sitting and listening to a story for 5 minutes.** The school can teach your child more easily if they have the concentration to learn. Enjoying regular books together, and

talking about what's been read, or what they can see on the page really helps their early learning in this area.

- **Recognising simple numbers, shapes and colours.** Anything you can do in this area really helps, having visible numbers available in the home and asking your child for example to pass you 1 book, or 2 slippers can help their understanding of this. Shapes and colours can be learnt through everyday language and objects too for example; "green circle cup", or asking "would you like rectangle, square or triangle sandwiches". Shape/colour/number 'hunts' whilst out and about are also a great way to promote development in these areas.

Helpful behaviours

- **Sharing.** This is an area that children of this age often still find difficult at times, however any opportunities for turn taking games, sharing favourite toys or offering food items to others gives them a sense of the needs of those around them.
- **Waiting.** Giving your child the experience of a short delay can help with their ability to adhere to the routines and boundaries of school and develop their awareness of other's needs, but also sometimes encourage children to complete tasks themselves.
- **Awareness of boundaries.** Children of all ages push boundaries and may do this at home and school, however being consistent with boundaries at home will encourage your child's ability to understand and respect the boundaries in place at school enabling them to have a more positive learning environment.
- **Making relationships.** At this age children are often interested in interacting with children and/or adults around them. Take this opportunity to model positive interaction and encourage friendships with others through playdates and toddler groups.

Physical skills

- **Using tools/holding a pencil.** Encouraging your child to use tools such as cutlery and scissors helps coordination and independence. Holding a pencil correctly in a tripod grip, not a fist grip will help with writing tasks your child will complete. Enjoying play such as colouring, playdoh and Lego help develop the muscle skills for pencil grip.

We hope the above information is helpful, if you have any questions speak to a member of staff.