



Information for Parents



Supporting the Development of Early Literacy Skills

Early Literacy Skills

Early Brain Development

Reading/listening/talking.....

When sharing books and stories, encourage your child to be inquisitive, 'tuned-in' to learning by asking questions to provoke thought.. 'I wonder why?...What do you think?..What's happening here?...' These questions go beyond yes and no answers or simple recall of information. Prompt children, but encourage them to work things out and share their own thinking and ideas, when questions are less obvious.



Make use of good pictures/ photographs/paintings etc... to prompt discussion and dialogue. Children love finding things in pictures and pointing out what they notice. Encourage your child to be descriptive here and again ask the 'wondering' type questions..'Why?..What if?..How do we know?...What do we think?...

Encourage children to use their prior knowledge when reading books ie. 'What do we know about?... Can you tell me about?... Have you heard/ seen these before?....'

Children are open and receptive to new learning - Talk about what they observe round about them if you are out and about or in the car etc... Develop an understanding of the weather, the seasons and the changes that take place in our environment at different times.

Spoken Story Starters

Making up stories together is a good way to help children develop talking/ listening skills and engages them in focused dialogue. Taking turns to add to the next part of the storytelling keeps them engaged and involved....'Once there was a little boy who loved....

Writing...

Early mark making tasks/ activities are very important in developing children's literacy skills too.

Making lists of what characters might need, writing letters or notes to the characters in a book, writing some questions you would like to ask them or noting down what you would like to tell them about you etc....

Drawing different objects together and building on the detail included. Ie. Drawing a basic house..let's add windows, what about curtains? Would there be a garden? Can you copy some of the flowers I've drawn? Or drawing people and encouraging facial features to be included and a separate body with arms/ legs attached.

Rhyme is very important in building pre-reading skills. Read books which use rhyme or talk about rhyming words. What other words sound like *bee*, *see*...?

