



HOME LEARNING

Week beginning 8th June 2020

The following are some suggestions for activities you can complete, in the play context, with your child this week.

These activities will help your child to progress towards some of their early learning goals that we have set for them in this month's planning.

Each child is at different stages of their development in these areas, feel free to adapt these to suit your child's ability level!

Theme for June –

This month's theme is 'On the Move' – we will be learning about Summer Holidays and the move to Primary School or a new setting for some of our children.

On the Move –

- Talk to your child about going on holidays and on day trips
- Talk about hot and cold places that you can visit and what you can do there
- Think about the ways you can travel to different places – by car, bus, train, walking, boat or by air and talk to your child about memories of travelling by these modes of transport
- Talk about what you would need to pack to bring with you, for a day trip or for a holiday, and about places to stay when you are there – caravan, hotel, campsite
- Talk about staying safe on holiday – in the sun, wearing appropriate clothing and sun cream to protect them.
- Talk about different languages spoken in other countries and look at some flags.

Pre – Reading Skills

The following are some ideas on how to develop Pre Reading Skills. Look out on facebook for videos of activities and links to other ideas too.

There are 5 skills that children need to develop to help them to become successful readers –

- Motivation to read
- Language Skills
- Concepts of Print
- Letter Knowledge
- Phonetic Knowledge

These activities are a fantastic, fun way of getting your child ready for beginning to read when they transition to Primary School 😊

Motivation to read

- **Share stories** – read books together – aim to do this daily
- Talk about the pictures, the characters and the story line
- Let your child join in with familiar parts of the story, or the whole text for the most loved books!
- Look at the front cover together. Talk about the title and the picture on the front, encourage them to predict what they think the story will be about
- Get them to retell a familiar story in their own words
- Read fairytales and traditional stories like Little Red Riding Hood, The three Billy Goats Gruff, Goldilocks - use story book language – ‘once upon a time’ and ‘happily ever after’ / ‘the end’
- Read stories that have their favourite characters from films or TV shows in them – like Peppa, Disney princesses or Paw Patrol
- Let them explore books by looking at them and feeling them
- Give them opportunities to ‘read’ books alone too – they can make up a story to go with the pictures! This also gives them the opportunity to learn about the direction the pages turn in and how to handle books appropriately too

Language Skills

- Keep talking to them – answer their questions as fully as you can and use ‘big’ words with them too – don’t *always* use very simple language
- Encourage them to speak in longer sentences – model these for them and praise their efforts
- Provide a ‘commentary’ to talk about what they are doing while playing e.g. ‘oh you are putting those on top of the others? Good idea!’ etc.

- Introduce and use vocabulary relating to topics that may be new to them. Use language related to time (like first/then/next/now), direction, size, position and comparison
- Ask them questions to help them to sequence and recall experiences or events in their lives
- Sing songs and say Nursery Rhymes or poems together

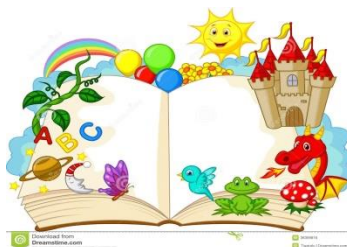
Concepts of Print

- When reading a book, draw attention to the pictures, the words, the letters that make up words, spaces between words and page numbers, to help children understand the difference between each of these
- Help them learn that print carries meaning – start by pointing out symbols in our environment and what they mean – signs, symbols of businesses like the golden arches of McDonald's, as well as traffic lights – green means go...etc.
- Matching games and activities and learning about different patterns help to develop visual processing skills
- Talk about characteristics of things and how things are the same / different
- Complete puzzles
- Organise objects that go together into groups – all animals, all blocks etc., or groups of the same colour/shape/type
- Begin to recognise their own name in print

Letter Knowledge

- Say and Sing the alphabet together
- Talk about the letters in their name, letters you see in the environment
- Draw attention to letters in words
- Complete alphabet puzzles or jigsaws
- Play with magnetic letters
- Talk about big and small, curly and straight letters

children at pre-school stage do not need to be able to read and write letters, we just want to introduce them to the concept of letters at this stage – that the letter shapes symbolise a letter name and letters make up words



Phonetic Knowledge

'Phonetic knowledge' means knowledge of sound. Your child will learn *phonics* – letter sounds – in Primary 1 and *do not need to be taught this before they begin school*. Phonetic knowledge for your child's age – preschool - is more about listening and being able to distinguish between different sounds.

- Go on a 'sound walk' to tune into the sounds all around us and talk about the sounds you can hear in the house / in the outdoor environment. Use descriptive language to describe the sound – loud, soft, high pitched, crashing, tweeting etc.
- Listen to music, a TV show, or online stories together
- Talk about rhyming words in stories, poems or songs and think of other words that rhyme
- Clap along or play percussion instruments to songs and rhymes
- Listen to you making a beat and copy it by clapping or with a percussion instrument
- Listen out for syllables in words - you can clap for each syllable – Sep-tem-ber has three syllables and would have three claps when you are saying it. Clap out the syllables in their own and others' names
- Talk about some sounds they can hear in words – like sssssssss at the beginning of snake

Stories about Starting School

There are lots of stories available about starting School – look out for these titles online on youtube, Booktrust or Libraries NI or in online book shops –

Mr Men go to School

Little Owl's First Day

Starting School

Topsy and Tim start School

Spot goes to School

I'm too Absolutely Small for School

We are here if you have any queries – email me on pmuir291@c2kni.net.

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