



Parent Involvement in Learning

January 2017

In This Factsheet

- Supporting your child's learning journey
- The Early Years Foundation Stage
- Areas of development:
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Physical Development
- Your Involvement in Tapestry

Supporting your child's learning journey

Introduction – parents are their child's first and most important teacher. Research shows that being involved in your child's learning has a significant impact on their educational achievement and children will achieve significantly better outcomes during your child's school journey. The benefits of becoming involved in your child's learning are:

- Enabling your child to build and improve their learning experiences which leads to better outcomes that will be carried on into adult life
- It will support strong bonds between your family and the setting your child attends
- It will provide a good role model to your child through cooperation, sharing and show your child that what they do is cherished and important.

This factsheet will offer a range of activities and ideas to support the three prime areas of your child's development and help and support us in the work we do with your children at the setting

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

EYFS is the learning framework used in all early years' settings and school reception classes in England:

- The EYFS supports your child's learning and development
- Your child's key worker will plan an individual learning experience for your child and will complete a learning journey of your child's learning and development while at the setting and this is done using the online programme Tapestry.
- There are three prime areas of learning: Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, and Physical Development
- Four further specific areas of learning through which the three prime areas are applied; Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

This factsheet will give ideas and activities that can be done at home which will help support the prime areas of learning.

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school.

Areas of Development

Personal, Social, and Emotional – these are the skills you give your child

to support them to be part of the world we live in, function successfully in later life and interact and play with other children. Parents are a role model to their children and give them the skills to socialise and mix successfully in later life.

- Give your child the opportunity to make decisions and making choices these are important life skills
- Offer time for their child to talk about their feelings – verbalising feelings helps them to resolve conflicts and understand the way they feel and why
- Problem solving and negotiation are skills that children learn through guidance from those around them and can cause conflict between them and their peers
- During games and activities introduce rules and talk about sharing and taking turns

Communication and Language – language development supports all areas of learning and is an invaluable tool for life. Wherever you are and whatever you are doing you can share language with your child and doing this will help to support your child to develop their language and communication skills. It will also introduce them to a wide range of vocabulary, stimulate their curiosity and make them aware of the world around them.

Listening – is an essential like skill and it is very important for children to practice and develop their listening. Some activity suggestions:

- Listening games while out and about, get them to tell you what they hear and what they think it can be, getting them to describe.
- Listening games when at home – there are games on the market that you can use or you can gather household items and get your child to close their eyes and see if they can tell you what is making that noise

Reading – reading stories is key to a child developing their vocabulary, listening skills, understanding that print has meaning, how to turn pages, that reading is something to do for pleasure enjoying a range of stories and rhymes. Reading activities:

- Use favourite toys to make stories up
- Look at the front cover and talk about what the story could be about
- Talk about what is happening in the pictures, what they think might happen next
- Make your own stories up – encourages imagination
- Draw stories

Writing – this is an important communication tool and prepares them for school. You can be a good role model for your child by highlighting writing activities that you do. This will enable your child to see the wide range of purposes writing is used for and its importance in everyday like. Suggestions:

- Writing shopping lists
- Writing menus
- Providing pens and paper at all times for your child to practice with
- Use your journeys to look at a range of road/shop signs
- Rice/flour/sand/lentils can be used by pouring them onto a tray and using your finger to form letters
- Whenever writing anything down involve your child, even when sending text messages/emails.

Physical Development – this is important as it builds strong muscles (both

large and small) and bones, supports and improves coordination, control, and movement, keeps them healthy and active, allows children to identify and manage risks. Activities that develop your child's larger muscles:

- Riding bikes/scooters
- Running, skipping, jumping, hopping
- Give opportunities to run around outdoors
- Moving to music
- Swimming
- Make obstacle courses
- Playing with balls/ball games
- Throwing, catching – this supports hand and eye coordination

Activities that develop your child's smaller muscles:

- Writing/drawing
- Playing with dough
- Painting
- Screwing/unscrewing objects
- Writing in sand/lentils/flour
- Cutting with scissors
- Fastening zips/buttons
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Sorting objects
- Tearing pieces of paper

The most important thing is with all the suggestions/activities is to have fun and enjoy spending time supporting your child. If you need a further guidance your key worker will be happy to help.

Your Involvement in Tapestry

Sharing your experiences is key to your child's learning journey – it's very important to capture not just what your child is doing at the setting but also at home, it allows for a complete picture of their development. So please share your experiences by taking photographs and information and adding them to Tapestry for your child's key worker to see what they are doing whilst away from the setting.