

SCHOOL READINESS- Tower Learning Community

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE:

- The Early Years curriculum is made up of 7 areas of learning- 3 Prime and 4 Specific.
- It is a broad, developmental curriculum and in order to reach a good level of development pupils need to come to school equipped with a range of skills.

PRIME AREAS:

- Communication and Language.
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development.
- Physical Development.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Think about your child:

- Can they leave you happily?
- Can they ask for help?
- How do they relate to others and manage friendships?
- Can they take turns and share?
- Can they follow simple rules and routines?
- Can they self-regulate their behaviour?

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

- Can your child speak clearly, talking about themselves and their feelings?
- Does your child know their full name?
- Can they communicate their needs? (toilet, hunger, thirst, feeling unwell).
- Can they follow simple instructions?
- Can they sit and listen?

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Can your child go to the toilet, flush it and wash their own hands?
- Can they blow their own noses?
- Can they undress and dress themselves?
- Can they put on a coat and button/zip it independently?
- Can they open their lunchbox and its contents?
- Can they use a knife and fork?
- Do they enjoy running, jumping and other physical activities?
- Do they have well developed gross motor skills?
- Can they hold a pencil?
- If they are ready to write their name, only use a capital letter for the first letter.
- Does your child sleep well and eat a balanced diet? **This is crucial.**

SPECIFIC AREAS:

- Literacy- Reading and Writing
- Maths
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

These become the focus of the Reception Year once the Prime Areas are developed.

Literacy- Reading and Writing

- If a child develops a love of books, is hearing rich language and has the ability to talk about the pictures and the story, they are well placed to learn to read.
- Recognising their name in print helps them to manage the classroom- finding their tray/peg.

Maths

- If a child has developed number sense (most children can count from 1-10 but it doesn't mean they can understand number) they are well placed to work with numbers.
- If they can use mathematical language to talk about shape and measurement (time, weight and length) they are well placed to develop their understanding of Shape, Space and Measure.

HOW CAN YOU HELP AT HOME?

- Talk to your children and model correct language.
- Introduce them to and explain new words.
- Give them simple instructions to follow.
- Read to your children and let them see you reading.
(Pointing to the words as you read can really help)
- Learn rhymes that involve numbers.
- Play turn taking games using dice.
- Involve them in cooking and tidying up.
- Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves
- To be independent with putting on their coat and shoes.

CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE LEARNING

When a child starts school, their teacher will also be looking at their approaches and attitude towards learning under these headings: ENGAGEMENT, MOTIVATION AND THINKING.

- Are they willing to have a go?
- Do they display a "can do" attitude?
- Can they concentrate and rise to a challenge?
- Do they bounce back after difficulties?

These skills help with positive learning and must be fostered in the home environment.

YOUR ATTITUDE COUNTS:

- If you present school as a positive experience your child will look forward to it.
- Hide your concerns and any negative past experiences.
- Use the language of "yet". Say "you might not be able to do it yet, but if you keep trying then you will be able to do it.
- An *independent* child will find school life far less daunting.
- A *resilient* child will cope with the challenges.