

# Working at home with your child.

## Communication and language

- Encourage your child to ask and answer questions, to speak clearly and in full sentences.
- Encourage your child to listen to stories and join in with rhymes and songs.

## Personal, Social, Emotional Development

- Encourage your child to say please and thank you.
- Encourage your child to take his/her own coat on and off.
- When playing with your child, support them in sharing toys.
- Allow them to choose some toys themselves and reflect on opinions about these toys; e.g. this is my favourite doll/car.
- Ensure that your child is able to go to the toilet unaided.
- Try to support your child in taking turns with others.

## Mathematical Development

- Practice counting groups of objects in pictures and stories; pose questions such as how many altogether? Which number is one more?
- Count out loud with your child saying the names of numbers clearly.
- Show numbers to your child (perhaps on number cards).
- Sing songs or rhymes with numbers in them; 10 In The Bed, 5 Little Ducks, 10 Fat Sausages etc.
- Read stories with numbers in them, e.g. The Very Hungry Caterpillar.
- Use mathematical language; add, take away, number names.
- Count using fingers-1 to 1 correspondence.
- Point to and say numbers around the house.
- Encourage children to identify shapes around them; do a circle spotting hunt, square spotting etc.
- Apply mathematics to real life; shape, money, amounts of objects etc.

## Understanding of the World

- Talk to your child about special times; birthdays, baptism and other key events in their lives and the lives of others they know.
- Encourage them to explore their surroundings; particularly in the outdoor area.
- Allow your child to observe animals and describe them.
- Allow them to use simple tools; such as a small hand trowel and encourage the correct use.
- Encourage them to feel different textured objects and describe; rough, smooth, soft etc.

## Physical Development

- Encourage your child to handle small and large equipment.
- Allow your child to use scissors and develop their skills.
- Allow your child to run, hop, skip, jump and find different ways of travelling.
- Play games such as follow the leader and change actions to develop motor skills and coordination.
- Discuss changes to their bodies after exercise; heart beating faster, feeling hot etc.
- Encourage your child to write letters and give meaning to the marks they make.

## Reading and Writing

- Allow your child to select books for themselves; ones that interest him/her. Picture books with repetitive and basic language such as those by Julia Donaldson.
- Encourage your child to 'read' what is happening in the pictures. Prompt them to tell you a sentence about what is happening.
- To increase vocabulary and identify sounds: play word games such as I spy.
- Sing alphabet songs and talk about the names of the letter and the sounds that they make.
- Make shapes of letters out of play dough; write them in sand, write their own name in the air etc.
- Encourage your child to sing/say songs and rhymes and tell you their own stories.
- Ask your child about words that rhyme, e.g. house and mouse.
- Practice writing their own name and letters of the alphabet.

## Creative Development

- Encourage your child to listen to and sing songs and rhymes, joining in with these.
- Engage in role play with your child, playing imaginatively.
- Explore different media; paint, pencils, crayons.
- Using scissors and glue; encourage cutting and sticking activities.
- Dance to songs and make up actions to complement them; e.g. Wheels on the Bus.
- Copy simple rhythms and explore simple instruments.