

Dear Parents / Guardians

We know that transition into school is going to seem even more daunting than normal due to the present conditions. We have therefore put together some ideas of activities, that you could explore with your child before starting school. They have been put together to support the EYFS frameworks seven areas of learning. The prime areas being Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development and the specific areas being Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. They will also support your child by enabling them to learn through playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outdoors. These 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' underpin learning and development across all areas and will support your child to be an effective and motivated learner. We are looking forward to welcoming you all in September but if you have any questions please get in contact with us on office@downs-view.kent.sch.uk or call us on 01233632339.

Thank you Mrs Smith EYFS Leader and EYFS Team.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Talk about their families and who is special to them. Maybe put these together in a book that they can bring into school and share with their teachers and peers.

Encourage your child to explore new environments and interact with new people.

Encourage your child to play with other children i.e. invite a friend around for a playdate.

Play games that involve sharing and turn taking.

Give your child plenty of opportunities to make decisions, give opinions and discuss their feelings i.e. which toy would be the best present for a friend? What are you most looking forward to about starting school?

Ensure your child is able to use the toilet independently and be able to wash my hands and blow their nose.

To remind your child to use their manners 'please' and 'thank you' go a long way and help to develop respect for others.



Communication and Language

Play Simon says to encourage your child to listen and follow through the instruction.

Ask your child to close their eyes for a minute and then talk about all the things that they could hear.

Sing together a variety of nursery rhymes. When they know them make deliberate mistakes and see if they can spot them.

Play games such as I spy, 'I went to the shops and I bought' adding more and more items each time to develop memory skills.

Encourage listening skills by being a good listener yourself. Chat about their play, what they like to play or ask for their views.

Encourage them to telephone a relative and communicate with them asking and answering questions.



Physical Development

Encourage your child to be independent and dress and undress myself.

Snack time and meal times can often be daunting. Make sure that you all sit together and have a meal together at the table like we would at school and be able to use a knife and fork appropriately.

Have a Friday try day where you select a new healthy food to try so that they will not be as daunted by new foods at meal time.

Get your child ready for their new routine by switching their meal times to match those of the school day. At school we have lunch at 11.45am.

Help develop **fine motor** control by:

Using brushes or squeeze bottles to paint with water on the fence, patio or wall.

Drawing with a stick in the sand or mud or sketching on the pavement with chalks.

Trickle different coloured icing onto fairy cakes.

Draw with fingers in a tray of flour, shaving foam or gloop (cornflour and water mixture).

Let them use playdough, scissors and tweezers (to pick up small objects) at home.

Threading using different materials i.e. buttons and string.

Help develop **gross motor** control by:

Getting outside on bikes and scooters. Encourage them to zoom through puddles and look at the track marks that they have made.

Pushing a wheelbarrow around the garden.



Top Tips for supporting your child's speech, language and communication

Allow your child to take the lead when you play together - this will keep them motivated and they'll develop crucial thinking and language skills through their play.

Give your child time - they might need more time than you think to answer questions or follow instructions, so give them an extra few seconds to do this.

Think about your non-verbal communication - your facial expressions, body language and tone of voice are great ways of showing your child that you're interested in what they say as well as helping them to keep their interest.

Demonstrate rather than correct. If your child says something incorrectly, repeat what they've said, but in the correct way and try to keep it in the conversation. You can do this with individual words, e.g. if they say "tat" you can repeat "ah, you saw a ...cat", or sentences e.g. if they say "dog runned" you can say, "yes, the dog ran, didn't it."

Encourage turn taking during games, you can make it clear what you're doing by explaining "my turn now" and telling your child when they've done well at waiting for their turn.

Encourage turn taking during games, you can make it clear what you're doing by explaining "my turn now" and telling your child when they've done well at waiting for their turn.

Maths

Get in the habit of counting everything i.e. as you walk up and down the stairs, the number of chips on your plate.

Sing a variety of counting songs and rhymes that teach them number and order as well as rhythm and rhyme i.e. 'One, to, buckle my shoe' 'Five little ducks'

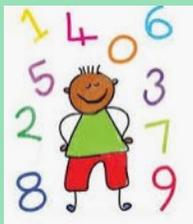
Go on a hunt for different amounts of things. Emphasise the importance of careful counting as you count together, so that each object is only counted once.

Collect a variety of objects from around the house and sort them into different groups i.e. size, colour, type, pattern. Encourage your child to decide how to sort the washing!

Play some board games. Remember to emphasise that you only count as your counter jumps onto the next space. Or other counting games such as dominoes, Ludo, Uno or number snap.

Whilst at the supermarket encourage them to help you count the things into the basket or trolley, e.g. find the big / small box of cornflakes etc

Bake with them as this encourages using scales, recognising numbers, dividing the mixture equally between the cake cases.



Literacy

Share a variety of books with your child. Ask them questions about what they can see, what they think will happen at different parts of the story. After reading, can they tell you what they liked or didn't like?

Read frequently to your child. Remember that this doesn't just have to be at bedtime. Some great starting school books are: Never take a bear to school by Mark Sperring, Bobbo goes to school by Shirley Hughes, Starting School by Janet and Alan Ahlberg, Max and Millie start school by Usborne books, Harry and the dinosaurs go to school by Ian Whybrow, Charlie and Lola I'm absolutely too small for school by Lauren Childs

Look at the different signs and print in the environment.

Listen to a variety of simple rhymes. Can they help fill in the missing words?

Go on a sound walk indoors and outdoors and compare the sounds that they heard.

Encourage them to create their own imaginative stories using the template attached.



Understanding the World

Use a telephone, i-pad to record themselves and listen to their voices.

Look at photographs together as this will encourage conversations about the past and present.

Use the i-Pad, tablet, computer to investigate some of these websites that have some great educational resources

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/starting-primary-school/1>

www.phonicsplay.co.uk (phase 1)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories>

<https://www.funwithspot.com>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?Subject=37>

Go outside and explore the natural environment. What minibeasts can you find? What interesting shapes did you see?

Have a go at building a den using natural and man made materials and maybe take a risk and let them climb a tree!



Expressive Arts and Design

Create a kitchen orchestra. Choose different kitchen objects and see what sounds you create by tapping them. This is a good game for helping children to hear different sounds, which helps with reading and phonics later on. Children who can pick out different sounds are more likely to hear the differences between letter sounds.

Try to gather different art materials i.e. paint, glue, chalk, felt tips and let your child explore with them and use their imagination. Ask them to tell you about their picture afterwards.

Collect together the recycling boxes, tubes and encourage them to put them together to create their own models. This supports them to use their imagination as well as how to use scissors and sellotape.

Encourage role-play. Whether it is dressing up, acting out real life roles such as a doctor / teacher.

Use small world play (little figures) for their role play i.e. farm set, train track.

Listen to a variety of songs including nursery rhymes.



Writing Toolkit for making up stories at home:



Who is the character of the story?

i.e. Once upon a time there was a little girl.

Where is the story set?

i.e. He went for a walk in the woods.

What is the problem?

i.e. A dinosaur came along and scared the little girl.

What is the resolution?

i.e. A unicorn hear her crying and swooped down and saved her from the dinosaur.