

Phonics - in Nursery we start with early phonics.

Initially we are tuning children's ears into listening to different sounds. We do listening moments and listening walks - ask your child to close their eyes and see what noises they can hear. Ask them to listen to the sounds of different instruments and talk about them.

Enjoy rhyming and rhythmic activities - sing nursery rhymes and look at the rhyming words - see if together you can make up rhyming strings - *cat, sat, mat, rat, fat or frog, dog, log, smog.*

Talk about the alphabet - we use letter names and letter sounds. Talk about what letter their name begins with and make up tongue twisters - **J**uliet's **j**azzy, **j**ingling, **j**umping, **j**ean's or **M**ax's **m**onkey's **m**ove **m**ountains.

If your child is ready to write get them to sound out the different letters in a word and then record them. **Make learning fun and praise their efforts and achievements.**



Helping your child at home with their learning.

A number of parents have asked how you can help your child at home with their learning. It is important at this age that learning is fun and part of your everyday routines. Enclosed are a few suggestions.



Reading - it is important for children to enjoy sharing books from an early age. Make reading part of your bedtime routine and enjoy a book together. Talk about the story, the characters, the illustrations, and what they like or do not like about the story.

Don't worry if your child selects the same book several times - they will learn from repeating the same story. When they have read the story several times see if they can re-tell the story to you.

Also try looking at non-fiction books about the topics we are covering. Explain these are non-fiction or information books. See if your child can suggest where else they can find other information - for example on a computer and perhaps you could search together for topic information.



Mark making - encourage your child to make marks in a variety of ways. When outdoors use a large paintbrush and write with water on your garden path or fence. Alternatively take a stick and write a name in the sand or mud.

When you are writing involve your child whether it be writing a shopping list or signing a birthday card. Initially the marks may not be distinguishable to you but talk with your child about what they have written. It is important to recognise every stage of their mark making.

If they want to write their name, model their name and leave them this for them to copy. In Nursery we would use a name card and encourage them to find this when they want to write their name. Please use a capital letter at the beginning of their name and use lower case for the rest of their name.



Counting Try counting items with your child when shopping, laying the table or going up or down stairs. Make it fun and don't worry if they don't always want to join in.

Look for numerals anywhere in the environment - supermarket displays, on buses, on car number plates, door numbers etc.

Again if they wish to record numbers model for them and then allow them to copy.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Singing number rhymes is a good way of introducing the idea of one more (addition) and the idea of one less (subtraction or taking away.)



Five Little Bees

One little bee blew and flew,
He met a friend, and that made two.

Two little bees, busy as could be,
Along came another and that made three.

Three little bees wanted one more,
Found one soon and that made four.

Four little bees, going to the hive,
Spied their little brother and that made five.

Five little bees working every hour
Buzz away bees and find another flower.

Dinosaurs

Five enormous dinosaurs

Letting out a roar--

One went away, and

Then there were four.

Four enormous dinosaurs

Crashing down a tree--

One went away, and

Then there were three.

Three enormous dinosaurs
Eating tiger stew--
One went away, and
Then there were two.

Two enormous dinosaurs
Trying to run--
One ran away, and
Then there was one.
One enormous dinosaur,
Afraid to be a hero--
He went away, and
Then there was zero.

I'm a dinosaur

I'm a dinosaur with two legs, with two legs, with two legs.

I'm a dinosaur with two legs, with two legs, with two legs,

And I'm looking for two legs more.

So come along and be a dinosaur, be a dinosaur, be a dinosaur.

So come along and be a dinosaur,

I'm a dinosaur with four legs, with four legs, with four legs.

I'm a dinosaur with four legs, with four legs, with four legs,

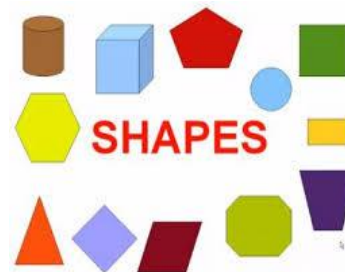
And I'm looking for two legs more.

So come along and be a dinosaur, be a dinosaur, be a dinosaur.

So come along and be a dinosaur,

Looking for two legs more.

Continue adding in twos. Count items in twos, hands, feet, arm, leg, pairs of shoes.



Shapes - Encourage your child to talk about different shapes and again look for them in the environment - circular