

# MOVING ON UP!

## Communication, language and reading



Becoming more confident when speaking to others and being able to say when they need help, will help children in their transition to school. Being able to talk about activities they like will also help them to become confident connecting with others who enjoy the same activities.

Your child doesn't need to be able to read before they start school. Children start school with a wide range of abilities and their teacher will be skilled at helping them progress at their own level. What's most important is that you and your child have fun together – sharing stories, singing songs, playing games and talking about anything and everything. Enjoying a book together can help them to develop early literacy skills and encourage a love of reading. When reading with your little one, remember to talk to them about the story, point out new words, and ask questions.

### WHAT I NEED TO DO

- Listen to and join in with stories, songs and poems.
- Know how to handle a book carefully.
- Hold a book the correct way up and know how to turn the pages.
- Listen to and follow a simple instruction.
- Focus my attention on an activity.
- Recognise my name when someone calls me or it is written down.
- Ask an adult for help when I need it.
- Make new friends and play co-operatively with them.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Regularly read to your child and help them share a love of books.
- Choose stories with repetitive phrases – this helps them to be confident in joining in.
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes with your child.
- Use puppets to bring a story to life (try making your own with your child).
- Use different/ funny voices when reading.
- Give your child simple instructions to follow when doing an activity.
- Help your child to practise sharing and taking turns.
- Help them to recognise their name when written down.

Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that children who know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, are usually among the best readers by the time they're eight.

*(Source: Mem Fox, Reading Magic)*

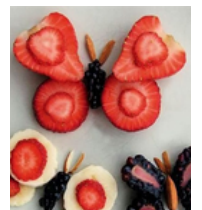
Share a story book, for example 'Dear Zoo'. Encourage your child to join in by guessing which animal is hiding. Make simple puppets or use toys to bring the story to life.



Sing nursery rhymes with your child. Nursery rhymes can help young children to develop an ear for language. Both rhyme and rhythm help children to hear the sounds and syllables in words, which can help them to learn to read.

Make a Treasure Hunt for your child, giving them simple clues to follow to direct them to the next clue, with some 'treasure' to find at the end of the hunt.

Encourage your child to join in with everyday activities such as cooking and preparing snacks. Give simple instructions for your child to follow. Try making a snack animal and talk to your child about what they are making and how they are doing it.



*Remember! All activities should be carried out under adult supervision*