



Acorn Nursery team recognise the importance of working together with parents to support the needs of each and every child. Children are encouraged to learn through play and develop knowledge, skills and understanding across 7 areas as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Communication and Language**
- **Physical Development**
- **Mathematics**
- **Literacy**
- **Understanding of the World**
- **Expressive Art and Design**



Created by Aine McCarthy

Dear Parents,

Young children are fascinated by the world around them and will often have strong interests both in school and at home. We encourage our children to become creative thinkers and learners; to ask questions and to actively seek answers both independently and with others.

‘Play’ is work for little ones and it enables them to develop their ideas, learn new concepts, build relationships, share experiences, take turns, share and become a lifelong learner.

We want all our children to enjoy Nursery, make progress and reach their full potential which is why we value your input and welcome your support.

Thank you

Getting ready to write

Holding a pencil properly can be difficult for a child who does not yet have enough strength in his or her hands and fingers.

Use fine motor skill activities to help strengthen your child's hand and fingers on a daily basis.



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I can write my name

Please encourage your child to write their initial letter as a Capital and ALL others should be lower case.



Finger Gym ideas:

- cutting, tracing, sticking, colouring, painting, gluing, modelling
- Using tweezers to pick up beads, pasta, buttons
- Threading or lacing
- Clothes pegs on a basket, washing line
- Play dough to roll out, squeeze, pinch, pull
- Measuring and pouring sand and water
- Draw basic shapes: circles, lines, zig zags, spirals
- Sticker books

Is your child using the tripod grip to write?

Getting ready to read

Young children are fascinated by books, sounds and letters. However, many parents are unsure about how to help their child.

Share lots of different books-stories, information books...children love to hear their favourites over and over again.

Visit your local library to share books with your child and take part in their story and rhyme activities.



'l i o n l i c k i n g a l o l l y'

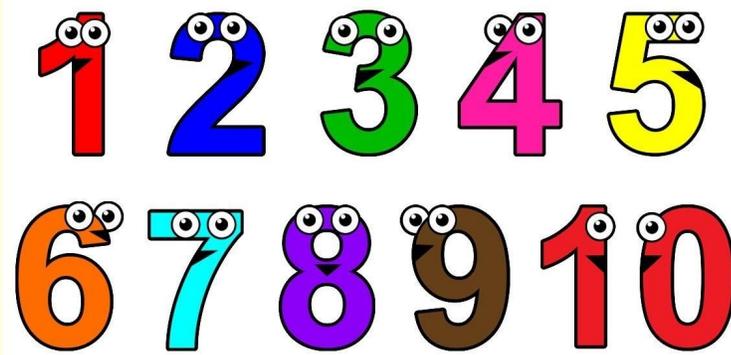
- 'Tune into Sounds' with your child
- Listen to different sounds in the environment and identify them together
- Make sounds together:
- Make toy sounds when playing with your child...animals, vehicles, dolls
- Listen to music and tap out sounds
- Make shakers by filling plastic bottles, tubes with different objects to create sounds
- Sing nursery rhymes
- Use 'Listening Ears': cup your ears and listen to sounds...are they short, long? Similar to other sounds? Loud or quiet?
- Make sounds with your body when reading...stomping, clapping
- Clap out the syllables in words that you read in books, hear in songs and rhymes



Phonics: Listen to the initial sound in words. Can your child make the sound that they hear? Can they hear the same sound in any other words?

Listen for sounds in words

Help your child develop their knowledge of Number and Shape



- Look for numbers and shapes in the environment: buses, cars, money, door numbers, books
- Count anything with your child...to five.....to 10.....to 20 and beyond...steps, cars, people
- Sing number rhymes...5 little monkeys, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 once I caught a fish alive, 10 Currant buns in a bakers shop, 10 little men in a flying saucer

Shapes are all around us

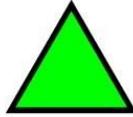
Look for shapes in the environment with your child



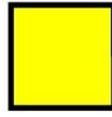
circle



oval



triangle



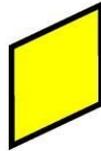
square



trapezium



diamond



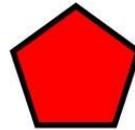
rhombus



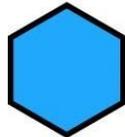
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rectangle



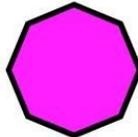
pentagon



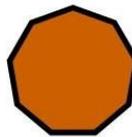
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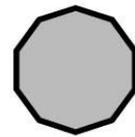
heptagon



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