



Some simple Games for the Family to play

Hide and seek

Simple turn taking board games

Snakes and ladders

Large jigsaw puzzles with big pieces

Snap or other matching games

Colour or picture dominoes

I spy (use letter sounds not names!) and other guessing games

Picture lotto

Ball games

Singing games

HARLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL



GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL



www.harlingtonlower.co.uk

BEFORE SCHOOL

Parents are a child's first teacher. The early years at home are the years in which a child learns more, and more quickly than at any other time in their life.

You can help the Foundation Team to make the most of your child's time in school.



A child learns a lot from talk, they learn to get on with other children and adults and will not be able to learn to read and write until they are able to talk easily to others.

Talking means speaking with, listening to, answering and asking questions. The more you speak with your child the more you will help them to think and you will get to know them better.

MATHEMATICS

You may be surprised to find how many maths activities a child meets every day wherever they go. What colour? How many? How full? Etc.

Ways to help

1. Sorting things is a good way to help your child to start thinking about maths. Sorting is putting things together, which are similar. For example putting all the forks together in the cutlery tray.
2. Talk about the colours around them.
3. Let your child compare their toys to see what is taller, longer or shorter.
4. Draw your child's attention to positional words when they are playing, e.g. the bear is on, under behind etc.
5. Counting objects-stairs, beads, bricks, claps etc.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Ways to help

1. Play charades to help read faces/interpret emotions. Show me a cross face/how am I feeling?
2. Model respectful relating.
3. Talk to your child about how they are feeling.

READING

It is very important to read stories to children. Sharing books with children shows them that this can be an enjoyable activity.

Ways to help

1. Find a special time every day when you can share and enjoy a book together. The rest of the family can help too.
2. Find things to read that can be enjoyed by you and your children together, such as picture books, storybooks, comics and magazines.
3. Children learn by watching other people. Let your children see that you like reading.
4. Tell your child a story and see if they can remember it in the right order.

READING LEADS TO WRITING

Often young children will see others reading and writing and will want to write their names. If you help your child to write at home, please **do not** use capital letters (except at the beginning of their name). You can point out the difference in the height of letters and point out letters, which appear several times in their name. Encourage your child to form the letters correctly from the start, bad habits are hard to break!

HELPFUL ACTIVITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD TO DO TOGETHER

1. Helping you round the house.
2. Visiting places together like the park, supermarket, bank, library, post office or railway station.
3. Singing rhymes and songs together
4. Collecting things like buttons, shells, postcards or pebbles and describing them.
5. Find interesting pictures to talk about. Stick them in a scrapbook.
6. Introduce new words such as the names of things you see when you go shopping. Children like to hear a few long words too.
7. Before children can write, they must be able to control their fingers and hands. They can learn to do this by using big jigsaws, chalk, felt-tips, dough, plasticine, blunt-ended scissors, big building blocks

These activities provide lots of opportunities for talking.

When your child does start school **it is essential** that they can do the following :-



Dress and undress themselves



Use the toilet properly and flush it.



Put on and do up their coat, gloves and hat, take them off and hang them up.



Wash and dry their face and hands.



Change shoes and Wellington boots.

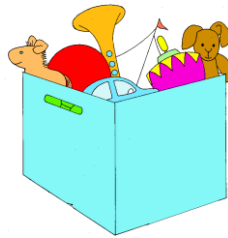


Use a tissue.

If your child can do these things they will feel happier in school:-



Use a knife and fork



Tidy and clear away their toys.



Share their toys and be prepared to take turns



Say and read their name.