

Activities and behaviours that create a positive home learning environment

RELATIONSHIPS

- Developing adult-child relationships that are loving, warm and responsive.
- Listening, responding and vocalising/talking from birth.
- Engaging in shared thinking as a normal part of daily life – explaining, speculating, describing, making connections and open questioning.

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE AND LEARN

- Giving opportunities and encouragement to explore and develop independence whilst offering support when needed.
- Providing real experiences that make sense to children and including children in everyday routines.
- Providing opportunities to learn in meaningful, enjoyable contexts.
- Going on visits.
- Creating opportunities for children to have friends to play.

BEING CHILD FOCUSED AND LED

- Following a child's interests and encouraging their ideas.
- Allowing and encouraging a child to lead play whilst playing together.
- Recognising success and giving positive feedback to build confidence and self-esteem.

DEVELOPING LITERACY AND LANGUAGE

- Developing understanding of letter sounds and patterns.
- Oral storytelling - sharing stories at home about everyday life, past experiences etc.
- Singing songs and rhymes.
- Talking about words, letters and sounds in context e.g. environmental print, picture books.
- Using a wide variety of text – reading with and to children and encouraging repeating of favourite stories.
- Encouraging and affirming early mark making and writing attempts.
- Painting and drawing.

Adapted from Wheeler and Connor (2009)

Sources: Nutbown et al. (2005); Siraj-Blatchford and McCallum (2005); Sylva et al (2004); Siraj-Blatchford et al (2002); DfES (2002); National Literacy Trust (2001)