

Chuter Ede Primary School



School Readiness

A guide to help you and your child make the best start to school life.

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Chuter Ede!

We are pleased your child has received a place with us for the next academic year and we want to support you in getting your child school ready.

All children are unique and their development might be at different stages and therefore what your child may be able to do before school starts varies. We want to ensure all children have a good transition into life at Chuter Ede, the skills your child comes into school with can help them to settle into their new classroom environment.

In this booklet you will find lots of helpful tips and ideas for you to try and work on at home...



Characteristics of Effective Learning



©Teacher's Pet 2013 www.tpet.co.uk

Characteristics of Effective Learning



©Teacher's Pet 2013 www.tpet.co.uk

Characteristics of Effective Learning

The characteristics of effective learning are the ways in which the child engages with others and their environment. These are:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

As *Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage* document states, these characteristics of learning 'underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.'

Below show child friendly statements broken down for each characteristic of effective learning.

Characteristics of Effective Learning



Listening and Social Skills

Your child will be starting a new class with lots of other children and adults, practising good listening skills before your child begins will give them a good start. Some children might also be used to listening to other adults and sharing if they already attend nursery or clubs. Here are some things that will help:



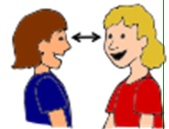
Attention- It is really important to minimise distractions by tuning out of TVs, music, laptops and phones, especially during meal, stories, baths and bedtime.

Turn taking- play and model turn taking with your child, with their siblings and friends. Talk about what turn taking and sharing means and encourage children to think about what would be a fair outcome.



Sense of right and wrong- encourage your child to think about their choices and what the consequences are. This also includes good choices, it allows children to take responsibility for their own actions.

Eye contact- encourage children to give eye contact when listening and interacting but also make eye contact yourself and get down to their level when possible. There are always lots of things going on around us and this encourages children to focus on the conversation.



Active listening- encourage children to listen with eye contact but also respond with appropriate comments, questions or answers. You could play *What can you hear*—listen for a minute and list them all or make deliberate mistakes in familiar nursery rhymes for them to spot.

Following instructions- give your children simple instructions to follow. It could be to get something or playing games like *Simon Says*. This will also help with following the school expectations.



Communication and Language

Good communication is essential for learning, communication is the foundation for reading and writing but also vital for children's social and emotional development.

Good communication also has a positive impact on behaviour.

Here are some ideas to support your child's development:



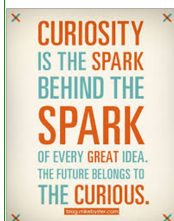
Read together— reading is a vital part of your child's education and reading stories together or having stories read to them creates their passion for reading.

Role play— Encourage role play and small world play, whether it's fantasy or acting out real-life roles such as doctors or builders. It helps children to develop their language and social skills, empathy and cultural awareness.



Talk things through— ask your children what they are doing and to give explanations by asking why do you think this?

This will encourage your child to retell events and think about their actions and consequences and ask children how it makes them and others feel. This will help them develop a sense of right and wrong and allow them to talk through any disagreements.



Ask questions— encourage children to ask questions about the world they live in and their surroundings— Why? What? When? Where? How? If? Model asking these questions and being curious about the world around them.



Learning and Development

Desire to Learn:

The 5 **I**'s are key to children having a desire to learn. These can be modelled and encouraged through interactions with your child and surroundings. These are

1. To be **I**nterested
2. To be **I**nquisitive
3. To **I**nitiate
4. To **I**nvestigate
5. To **I**nteract

"Developing a desire to learn is the kindling point of all classroom achievement."

Robert John Meehan
American Educator

Areas of learning and development

There are 7 areas of learning and development which are split into Prime areas and Specific areas of learning and each area is broken down into different aspects:

The early years foundation stage



3 Prime areas— these are fundamental, work together and used throughout all other areas.	Personal, social and emotional development	Making Relationships Self-Confidence and Self-Awareness Managing Feelings and Behaviour
	Communication and language	Listening and attention Understanding Speaking
	Physical Development	Moving and Handling Health and Self-Care
4 Specific areas— these include essential skills and knowledge for participation in society	Literacy	Reading Writing
	Mathematics	Numbers Shape, Space and Measure
	Understanding The World	People and communities The World Technology
	Expressive Arts and Design	Exploring and Using Media and Materials Being Imaginative

Mathematics

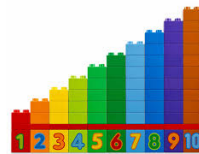
Exploring numbers and shape in the environment will encourage children to make links, spot patterns and become more confident recognising numbers and counting. You can help your child to prepare for learning maths at school by playing simple games, rhymes and everyday activities. Here are some things that will help:



Counting— Support your child with their counting to and from 10 by singing songs such as *Five Little Ducks*, *Five Little Speckled Frogs* and *Ten Green Bottles*.

Recognising numbers— spot numbers in the environment such as on doors, clocks, birthday cards and in stories such as *The Three Little Pigs*.

Counting objects— Encourage children to touch count— touching each object as they count it or moving it so they can know which ones they have already counted. You could also practice counting out objects from a larger amount— e.g. asking your child to count out 3 Lego blocks out of their Lego box



Play games, bake and role play— play games that include numbers such as *Snakes and Ladders*, *Number snap* and *dominoes*. Enjoy baking together and measuring out ingredients or playing shop where they can use vocabulary related to money.

Talk about everyday objects— Look around your environment and talk about what you can see, the patterns, what objects look like and compare them by size, height, weight and shape. Support children with their vocabulary such as short/tall, long/short and use everyday language like round, straight, big, little to describe what they



Independence skills

It is important to encourage your child to become more independent with some tasks. At home there might always be a grown up available to help straight away but they will be moving to class with 30 children. This will also develop their determination, perseverance and patience which are all valuable skills! Here are some things that will help:



Coats and zips— practice putting their coat on at home and fastening their zip or buttons.

Eating— practice sitting at table and using a knife and fork at home.



PE kit— regularly practice changing into their P.E kit and school clothes and spotting their names in their clothing. There are lots of children getting changed at the same time, this will increase their confidence when changing for PE.

Looking after belongings— encourage children to look after their own things and put things away. This will help to keep all their belongings safe and together and improve their organisational skills whilst also helping to keep things tidy.



Going to the toilet— support your child to go to the toilet and talk about the importance of going to the toilet by themselves (being a private time). Talk through toilet routines such as wiping, flushing and washing hands.

Reading

Reading is an important part of your child's education. You can help to develop their passion for reading and help them to understand that reading is necessary in our daily lives. This can be done by allowing them to see you enjoy reading but also where reading takes place in day to day situations such as reading signs, food labels, post and many more. Here are some things that will help:



Read together— read with and to your child. Create a love for books by reading new and familiar stories, enjoying them and talking about what is happening. Encourage children to talk about what you have read and look at the pictures.

Recognise your name— Allow children plenty of opportunities to see and find their name handwritten and in print. This will help children to find their pegs, trays and their named belongings.



Looking at writing in the environment— Encourage children to spot letters in their environment, this could be on food labels, signs, in books. Children will often start to spot familiar letters first such as the ones in their name. It is also important that children learn that reading isn't just with a book but words are all around.

Learn sounds— You could learn letter sounds and play games like */ Spy* to encourage children to think about what sound the word starts with. We start off learning sounds using the Jolly Phonics sounds which can often be found online (Phase 2).



Writing

During the foundation stage we are aiming for children to achieve a tripod grip where children have greater fine motor control and start to use finger movements to make shapes and letters.



There are many vital steps and stages of development before this tripod grip can be achieved:

1. The children first need to develop their **core muscles** through activities such as jumping, climbing and sitting.
2. They then need to develop their **gross motor muscles**. Children benefit from engaging in activities that require large arm movements and giving them time to develop their hand to eye coordination. You could throw and catch a ball, paint, rollers, large chalk, use cars to make marks with paint,



3. Once children have developed their gross motor muscles, they can concentrate on developing their **fine motor muscles** so that they are ready to begin writing. These can be anything that involves strengthening finger muscles and improving coordination— threading, using children's tweezers/pegs, bubble wrap popping, making patterns.



4. Children can then finally begin to **mark make** by making lines and writing letters in sand, messy play (slime) and then using a pencil to write letters and their name. Encourage children to tell you about their marks and what they are.

