

Independence

Children need to manage toileting completely independently, usually without the option of wipes and includes flushing the toilet too! Teach them the critical skill of being able to blow their own nose. Do encourage your children to carry their own bags and belongings. Children will need to be able to dress and undress by themselves. Mainly when they are changing in and out of their PE kits. It is therefore not just coats or shoes and socks, but skirts, trousers and jumpers too. Tights can be particularly tricky. Along with buttons on shirts and cardigans. Velcro shoes are almost a must. Please help by labelling **everything** and showing them how to find their name labels in their uniform. Support your child in learning to brush their own hair and teeth. Teach them how to peel and chop their own fruit, but also eat fruit whole. Allow them to feed themselves and teach them how to use a knife and fork.



Social Skills

Support your child in co-operating with adults and peers. Help them follow rules and understand boundaries. Turn taking requires practise. Sharing isn't always easy. Talk about feelings and emotions, along with strategies to manage them. Give them confidence to deal with separation. Build their self-esteem so they are able to vocalise their needs.

Communication

Talk to your child as much as possible. Allow them to express themselves - talk about themselves, their families and what's important to them. Encourage them to talk in full sentences. Help them notice things, ask questions and initiate conversations. Discuss the day, date, weather and the seasons. Encourage them to ask questions. Model language correctly e.g. horse not horsey. Extend their vocabulary wherever possible.

Help them understand instructions. Start with 1 step and progress to 2 and 3 step instructions. Play Simon Says. After a day out - encourage your child to sequence the events. What did we do first, next, after at the end etc. Play treasure hunts, using descriptive language.



Physical

Their daytime nap will need to be phased out and the need for a dummy and/or bottle too. If they do not already have a good sleeping pattern at night, it's an important time to encourage it. Take them to the park to run and develop special awareness. Throw, catch and kick balls. Encourage upper body development on monkey bars and climbing ladders. Ride scooters and/or trikes. Teach the correct holding of scissors. Fine motor skills can be developed using:

Threading activities

Mastering the use of a knife and fork

Doing up zips

Doing up and undoing buttons

Playing with small Lego

Opening packages and envelopes



Reading & Singing

Read 'with' them and not just 'to' them. Read books, comics, postcards, posters, signs and labels. Look at and discuss the illustrations of a story. Ask questions about the story. Point to the words as you read. Re-reading stories has huge benefits. Allow your child to re-tell the story to you. Talk about the events, settings and characters. Can they suggest a different ending to the story? Ask them to sequence the story. Share rhymes with your child. Encourage them to detect the rhyming words. Can they suggest another word that would rhyme?

Suggested book lists are available in the Literacy star of the BLS Website.



Reasoning & Maths

Play all kinds of games including board games, but allow your child to think for themselves. Predict, experiment and fail, but try again. Don't always let them win. Help them deal with the emotions associated with losing and/or not being first. Offer lots of different jigsaws. Use numbers and shapes in the environment for children to recognise. Not always regular shapes. Talk about biggest, smallest, tallest and shortest. Count objects by pointing 1 at a time to them. Don't forget 'zero'. Count forwards and backwards. Up and down. Count claps, steps and jumps too. If writing numbers - form them correctly. Support for this is available in the Maths star of the BLS website. Use dice and dominoes to support patterns and number recognition too.

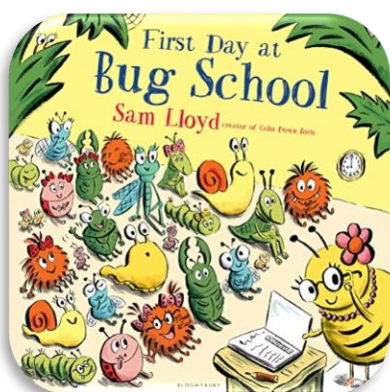
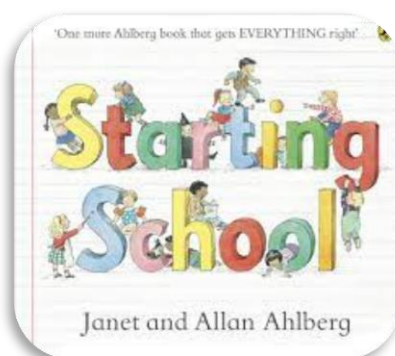
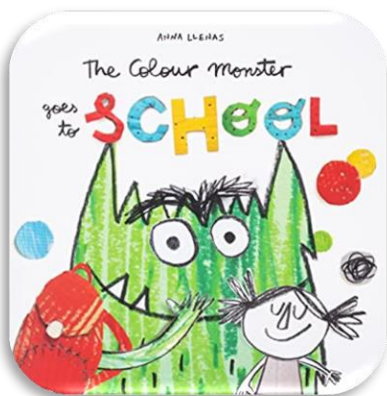
Phonics & Writing

Use Jolly Phonics rhymes and actions to support correct pronunciation. Available on the Parent Area of the BLS website and on-line. Encourage the correct pen grip if they choose to mark make.

Support correct letter formation of lower-case letters using Read Write Inc. This is also available in the Phonics star of the BLS website. Please concentrate on lower case formation except for the beginning of their name.



Read Write Inc.



Familiarity with their new School

Read books about starting school. Talk about their new teacher. Let them try on their uniform. (independently) Talk about the new journey and who will be taking them. Visit the school whenever possible, including summer fayres and Open Days. Have play dates with new school friends. Talk about the exciting learning opportunities, but gently introduce that there will not be as much free choice.

Please note that feedback at school will be far more limited than at BLS.