

# Little Acorns Pre-school: Tips for parents to support their child's learning



## How children learn

- It is believed that in order for children to best learn, certain traits should be developed within them.
- These can be categorised under the following three characteristics:

## Playing and exploring – engagement

- Finding out and exploring
- Playing with what they know
- Being willing to 'have a go'

For example when a child is willing to try to something new, they will progress in their development.

## Active learning – motivation

- Being involved and concentrating
- Keeping trying
- Enjoying and achieving what they set out to do

For example if a child can concentration, they will be able to complete a task. [N.B: ideally a child should be able to concentrate for 1 minute for every year of their life, plus or minus 1. Therefore a 4yr old should be able to concentrate between 3 - 5 minutes.]

## Creating and thinking critically – thinking

- Having their own ideas
- Making links
- Choosing ways to do things

For example if a child can think for themselves, they will gain confidence and be able to voice their own ideas.

## Tips to support your child's learning

- Encourage your child to have a 'can do' attitude to new things
- Be positive to your child
- If a child is learning something new, you may wish to start them off and let them do the last bit of the task e.g. you start the zip off and they complete it
- Set them tasks that are simple in order to boost their confidence initially
- Once they enjoy a challenge, set the aims higher and encourage them to take risks
- Praise your child specifically for things they do and for the effort involved e.g. 'well done for working hard to finish that puzzle even though it was really tricky'
- Work together on a task... perhaps sing 'we can do it'
- Talk about it being ok if you cannot achieve what you set out to do
- Teach your child how to problem solve by asking them open questions e.g 'what can you do now?'
- Be a role model and show them you are interested in learning about things too e.g. go on a walk and collect leaves then look up in a book or the internet to find out what trees they came from
- Follow your child's interests. If they enjoy something encourage it further. This will develop their concentration skills. You may be able to use one interest to develop something else e.g. they love playing mums and dads so you ask them to 'write' a shopping list (so that you can encourage mark making skills)
- Encourage your child to talk through what they are doing or making. Let them know it's ok to change their plans and modify something.
- Allow them to make choices. [You may wish to give them 2 options, both of which you are happy to comply with!!]