

High/Scope Nursery News



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Autumn Term 1 – September 2021

General News

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely summer. The children that were with us last year have settled back in beautifully and we are enjoying getting to know our new children and their families. We are hopeful that this year we will be able to begin to get back to normal. We are not currently changing any of our drop off and pick up arrangements but we will be looking at this as term goes on – we will keep you updated if there are any changes. We are still taking great care with regard to Covid 19 and continuing with extra hygiene routines and asking adult visitors to wear face masks.

EYFS Changes

Following a review of Early Years education, the government has introduced changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) that will be implemented from this September. We have looked closely at the changes and are confident that we are well equipped to implement them. The main changes focus on:

- **Record keeping, observation and assessment and evidence:** We are no longer required to keep lots of written evidence of children's progress as a greater emphasis is being placed on the professional judgement of staff. This is something that we have always hoped would happen, believing that time spent with the children is more important and we are glad to see that the Department for Education has recognised this. We will continue to add updates to Tapestry (the online Learning Journal) as well as photos of the children in action as we know that parents like to see these. As ever, these records are updated outside of nursery hours in order not to impact on time spent with the children.
- **A greater focus on language development:** This is particularly important as a good level of language development helps children to learn, to ask questions and to support their ability to negotiate and interact with others. There are some ideas to support language development attached to this newsletter.

School Applications

For parents of children who will be 4 years old on or before 31st August 2022 it is time to start looking into a school place for your child. Most local schools hold open events/tours for prospective parents. Applications are made through Surrey County Council from November 1st. For more information please visit:
www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions

Term Dates 2021/2022

Autumn Term 2021

Term starts: Tuesday 7th September

Half Term: 25th – 29th October

Term ends: Thursday 16th December

Spring Term 2022

Term starts: Tuesday 11th January

Half Term: 14th – 18th February

Term ends: Thursday 31st March

Summer Term 2022

Term starts: Tuesday 19th April

Half Term: 30th May – 3rd June

Term ends: Thursday 14th July

Guide to language development and how you can help your child

Remember that children develop skills at different rates but generally:

Between 2 - 3 years usually children will:

- Listen to and remember simple stories with pictures
- Understand longer instructions, such as 'make teddy jump' or 'where's mummy's coat?'
- Understand simple 'who', 'what' and 'where' questions
- Use up to 300 words
- Put 4 or 5 words together to make short sentences, such as 'want more juice' or 'he took my ball'
- Ask lots of questions. They will want to find out the name of things and learn new words
- Use action words such as 'run' and 'fall' as well as words for the names of things,
- Start to use simple plurals by adding 's', for example 'shoes' or 'cars'
- Use a wider range of speech sounds. However, many children will shorten longer words, such as saying 'nana' instead of 'banana'. They may also have difficulty where lots of sounds happen together in a word, e.g. they may say 'pider' instead of 'spider'
- Often have problems saying more difficult sounds like sh, ch, th and r. However, people that know them can mostly understand them
- Now play more with other children and share things
- Sometimes sound as if they are stammering or stuttering. They are usually trying to share their ideas before their language skills are ready. This is perfectly normal at this age, just show you are listening and give them plenty of time. It's not helpful to draw attention to their 'stammering' by saying things like 'take your time'. Just try to be patient and not interrupt them.

How to Support Your Child

There are lots of things you can do to encourage children at this stage:

- Adding words to children's sentences can show them how words fit together. For example, if a child says, 'dolly hair' you can say 'brush dolly's hair'
- Often children enjoy helping. Sharing daily jobs gives a chance to talk about objects and actions
- Use puppets and pictures to help children listen to stories. Don't be afraid to tell a story more than once. Repetition helps children to understand and remember words
- Give children the correct example for sounds and words. This helps if they are having problems saying a certain word or sound. If you correct them or make them say it again, you can make them feel anxious. Simply repeat what they have said using the right words and sounds. With time they will be able to do it themselves.

Between 3 - 4 years usually children will:

- Listen to longer stories and answer questions about a storybook they have just read
- Understand and often use colour, number and time related words, for example, 'red' car, 'three' fingers and 'yesterday / tomorrow'
- Start to be able to answer questions about 'why' something has happened, although this still might be at quite a basic level
- Use longer sentences and link sentences together
- Describe events that have already happened, even if their sentences aren't exactly like adults' e.g. 'we went park'
- Enjoy make-believe play
- Start to like simple jokes even if they don't understand them
- Ask many questions using words like 'what' 'where' and 'why'
- Still make mistakes with tense such as say 'runned' for 'ran' and 'swimmed' for 'swam'
- Have difficulties with a small number of sounds – for example r, w, l, f, th, sh, ch and j
- Start to be able to plan games with others.
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How to Support Your Child

There are lots of things you can do to encourage children at this stage:

- Have a special time to talk about the day. Talking about what has happened that day will help their memory skills. It will also help them to talk about things they cannot see and things that happened in the past which is an important skill for learning in school
- Wherever possible, use pictures, objects, puppets, acting, gestures and facial expressions. This will keep a child's interest
- Talk about or play games involving opposites like 'on and off' or 'big and little'
- Join a child in pretend play. Let them take the lead. This will help their language and creativity. Talk about what they are saying and doing rather than asking lots of questions. Your commentary helps their language skills and shows you are listening and interested
- Reversing roles can be great fun for a child. Let them be the 'mummy' or the 'teacher'. This helps them to talk about new situations
- Play with and talk about sequences of coloured bricks or shapes, numbers and days of the week.

