



# Welcome to "Learning at school"

A session for parents of  
children who have just  
started school

## Things to cover this morning...

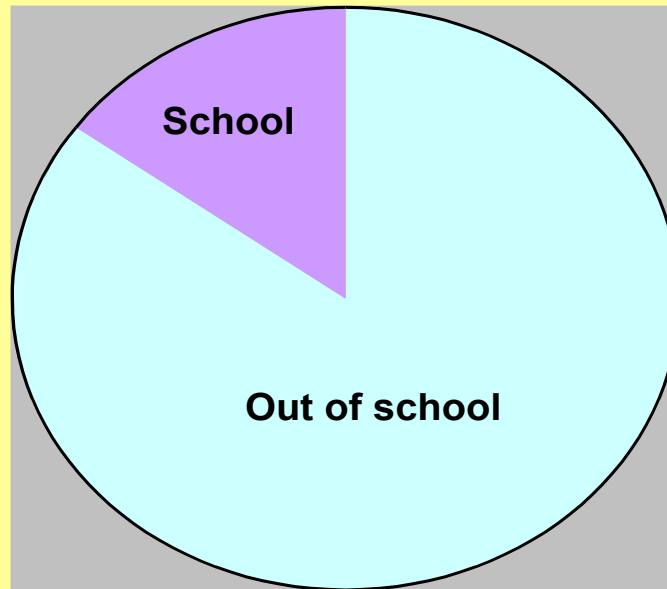
- Why are parents so important?
- The school and parents' responsibilities
- Where you can go for help and support
- Importance of Vocabulary
- Insight into how we teach Maths in Reception
- Know how to support you child with key resources used in school



Why do parents  
matter for  
children's learning  
and wellbeing?



# Influence on learning



85% of children's waking time is out of school





Which of the following statements do you agree with?

- A. Families are our most important place of learning
- B. Children learn at school not at home
- C. Children learn more from what parents do than from what they say
- D. A happy family is one that learns together
- E. If a parent helps a child it conflicts with school learning

# Building a strong bond with your child

- Encourage your child's individual strengths and interests
- Spend time with your child
- Help them get enough sleep, exercise and to eat healthy food
- Celebrate their success
- Listen to your child without solving the problem for them



# Further sources of help

- Libraries
- School Nurse
- SENCO- Ellie Bennett
- Early Help - Lydia
- ERIC - toileting concerns
- NHS website
- The school

# 'Just Playing'

When I'm building with the blocks  
Please don't say I'm 'Just playing.'  
For you see, I'm learning as I play,  
About balance, I may be an architect someday.

When I'm getting all dressed up,  
Setting the table, caring for the babies,  
Don't get the idea I'm 'Just playing.'  
I may be a mother or a father someday.

When you see me up to my elbows in paint,  
Or standing at an easel, or moulding and shaping clay,  
Please don't let me hear you say, 'He is just playing'  
For you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I just might be a teacher someday.



When you see me engrossed in a puzzle or some 'playing' at my school,  
Please don't feel the time is wasted in 'play.'  
For you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I'm learning to solve problems and concentrate.  
I may be in business someday.

When you see me cooking or tasting foods,  
Please don't think that because I enjoy it, it is 'Just play.'  
I'm learning to follow directions and see the differences.  
I may be a cook someday.

When you see me learning to skip, hop, run and move my body,  
Please don't say I'm 'Just playing.'  
For you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I'm learning how my body works.  
I may be a doctor, nurse or athlete someday.

When you ask me what I've done at school today,  
And I say, 'I just played.'  
Please don't misunderstand me.  
For you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I'm learning to enjoy and be successful in my work.  
I'm preparing for tomorrow.  
Today, I am a child and my work is play.

# What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the stage of education for children from birth to the end of the Reception year. It is based on the recognition that children learn best through play and active learning.

( updated 2021)



# Three prime areas of learning and development

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

## Four specific areas of learning and development

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



- As part of the changes to the new framework, it also means that there is less emphasis on recording paperwork, meaning we, as adults, can spend more time with your child getting to know them and having those quality interactions.
- The new framework is also more aligned with the KS1 curriculum, further ensuring your child's educational journey from Reception to KS1 is building upon previous knowledge.

# Word Aware



- Focus on Early Vocabulary - 30 million word gap
- Impact on learning
- 'Literacy floats on a boat of talk'
- Supports rich vocabulary for all children
- Make Words Count
- Concept Words - Concept Cat - 20 times to know and understand
- Drawing Club - vocabulary

# Make Words Count



- Words are important - need to understand.
- Support at home makes a difference - faster and better
- Have fun with words - word games
- Talk as much as read and write
- Do a little every day - build into your routine. On the way to school, walking home, in the car. **Stick on the fridge.**



# Concept Words



- Words that shape how we think about the world.
- Put the new word in a sentence - make comments about the word rather than asking a question.
- Stick to the exact word
- Do not use the opposite word - it is not tall
- Home language

# Learning new words



**If a child doesn't know a word,  
encourage them to ask.**

# Encourage your child to ask what new words mean



To get on well in school and in life, children need to know lots of words. One of the best ways of learning what new words mean is to ask.

- **Praise** your child when they ask about the meaning of words.
- **Show** your child how to ask, eg 'Let's go and ask Grandad what that word means.'