



Tanglewood Nursery School

# Home School Links Booklet

Autumn Term 2017



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to a new term at Tanglewood Nursery School, and a special welcome to our new families.

Many parents ask for ways in which they can help their children to extend their learning at home. We hope you find some of these ideas useful and fun.

### **The Early Years Foundation Stage and You as a Parent:**

The Early Years Foundation Stage recognises that parents are a crucial part of their child's learning. When your child is with you they are learning all the time—at anytime and anywhere.

### **Here are some ways you can help your child learn and develop:**

- Watch and listen to your child
- Talk to them and join in with their play
- Give lots of praise and encouragement
- Develop their independence by letting them try things out
- Sing rhymes and enjoy books together
- Encourage your child to be active

- Go outside in all types of weather! Let your child experience the weather, and all the different sounds, smells, textures and sights of the outdoors.

### **Young children learn best when:**

- Their learning is fun.
- Their learning is practical and relevant to the child.
- The child feels successful and they can try things out without fear of failure.
- They have opportunities to participate in well planned play, which takes place both indoors and outdoors.

Schools, Children and Families Directorate Standards and Improvement—Early Years & Childcare (May 2008)

**Helping your child learn and play does not have to cost money. Your time and attention are the most valuable resources and are much more important than anything else!**

**Remember your child learns most from you**

The ideas are set out under the seven areas of Learning and Development:

### **Personal, Social and Emotional**

- If you haven't already, enjoy making the "All About Me" book with your child. Look at photographs of your family with your child.
- Talk about holidays you have had together or days out you have enjoyed.
- Play games with your child, encourage them to take turns and share. Talk about the rules and expectations of the game, but make sure you keep it simple. The children don't always have to win!
- Encourage your child to tidy up their toys and belongings. Give simple instructions like "Put your shoes in the basket" or "Put your books on the table".

### **Communication and Language**

- When you sit around the table at meal times let the children talk about things that interest them. Talk about the things you did or the places you went to yesterday.
- Go on an Autumn sounds walk. What sounds can you hear?
- Play listening games like 'Simon says..' where your child has to copy an action or play 'Ready, Steady, GO' where your child has to wait before pushing a car or rolling a ball.
- Make lunch or dinner together. Ask questions such as 'What do we need to cut the apple?' or 'What do we need to put your water into?' and encourage your child to find the things you need.

## **Literacy**

- Turn the television off and enjoy looking at a book. Here are some good stories which you might like to share with your child and that the children enjoy at Tanglewood; 'My cat likes to hide in boxes', 'Whatever Next', 'Kippers Toy Box' and 'Dear Zoo'.
- Don't forget to visit the nursery library and you may discover some new stories that you love.
- Why not get your coats and wellies on and do some mark making outside. Use large chinks on the patio or use sticks to make marks in the mud.
- Write a shopping list together and let your child mark off the things as you put them in the trolley.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

- Enjoy listening to some music, find out what your family likes listening to. Dance and play instruments along to your favourite songs.
- Why not have a go at Apple printing, cut an apple in half, dip in paint and print away. What other fruit and vegetables could you use? You could even print your own Christmas wrapping paper and tags.
- Let your child play inside large boxes. What will it become? A boat? A train? A cave? The possibilities are endless!
- Help your child make up a story using some of their toys.

## **Mathematics**

- Children love to count, incorporate this into everyday activities such as the number of steps up and down the stairs, how many apples you put in the fruit bowl.
- Try sharing number rhymes with your child. Some of the songs we will be singing in nursery will include 5 little ducks, 5 current buns, 5 little monkeys and 5 speckled frogs. Ask your child to show you the actions. Other ideas include 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive, Hickory Dickory Dock, and 2 Little Dicky Birds. You can find some more rhymes in the 'Tanglewood Recipes' booklet available from the office for £3.00.
- Give your child a small box and ask them to find things that will fit inside. How many big things will fit in? How many small things can you fit in? Use the language of bigger than/smaller than.
- Go on a shape walk inside or outside and find 2D and 3D shapes such as circles, squares, cubes and spheres.

## **Understanding the World**

- Find a cosy space and share memories of family occasions or stories from childhood. Try using photographs and objects.
- Find some autumn treasures e.g. acorns, conkers, and leaves. Make a treasure box for home to put them in.
- There are some religious celebrations in the Autumn - 30<sup>th</sup> September - Yom Kippur, 19<sup>th</sup> October - Diwali, and 4<sup>th</sup> November - Guru Nanaks Birthday. Why don't you see what you can find out about these celebrations?

## Physical Development

- Go for lots of autumn walks and enjoy running in the woods, jumping in puddles, kicking the leaves, and squelching in the mud!
- Have fun threading a shoelace with all sorts of things—pasta, cotton reels, leaves, buttons. Take care to provide your child with things that won't be swallowed.
- Now that the weather is getting colder, please encourage your child to be independent with dressing and undressing, fastening coats and changing shoes and wellies. Please help them by providing clothes and shoes with easy fastenings, including Velcro that they can manage themselves. Don't forget to write their names in their shoes and boots.
- It is really important that your child is as independent as possible; please help them develop their self-help skills e.g. going to the toilet, flushing it, washing hands.

We hope you have lots of fun! It is always good to hear how you get on and to hear of any other great ideas that you have for the children.

*D MacDonald and Tanglewood Staff*

Donna MacDonald

Deputy Head