

TOP TIPS FOR  
SHARING  
KEY  
MESSAGES

## Education Works in Pre-School



**Education Works in Pre-school** aims to enable settings to raise parents' understanding of the pre-school curriculum and develop their role in supporting their child's learning at home.

During the busy pre-school day, children engage in a wide range of well-planned and stimulating activities. Early years practitioners skilfully support children's development across six areas of learning, monitoring progress and adapting experiences to meet individual needs.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- ⇒ Share **photos** as they participate in the daily routine of the pre-school—choosing their break, helping with tidying up and washing hands.
- ⇒ Share the **skills the children are developing** such as sharing, taking turns, following and leading and how they can develop at home through games, role play and modelling.
- ⇒ Teach children about **emotions**, helping them learn the names for their feelings and an outlet for them. Parents may find this [GRTI flyer](#) useful.
- ⇒ Provide examples of how to introduce **simple choices** such as snacks—apple/banana, milk or water
- ⇒ Encourage parents to follow a predictable, **daily routine**. Parents may find the ['My Day' Visual Calendar](#) useful.
- ⇒ Share with parent the strategies that are used in the setting to **calm children** when angry or upset.

### Language Development

- ⇒ Create a short video to emphasise the importance of talking. Include how staff interact with children, **respond** to their ideas and **develop language** by answering questions fully.
- ⇒ Ideas of how to **introduce new words** and to develop language by adding describing words to their child's sentences
- ⇒ Include the **importance of reading**, aiming for at least bedtime stories. Sing together, tongue twisters and nursery rhymes will also help develop language. Download - ['Tongue Twisters Are Fun!'](#), ['Nursery Rhymes'](#)
- ⇒ Provide parents with information on the importance of **attention and listening skills** and provide activities such as giving simple instructions, encouraging taking turns and listening to stories.

### The World Around Us

- ⇒ A short video demonstrating to parents how they can encourage their child to develop their interest and **encourage** investigations
- ⇒ Provide examples of **investigative play** with water—sink or float, magnets, cars on ramps.
- ⇒ Observe objects and materials outdoors & encourage **using all their senses** when out for walks; talk about the **weather** and the **seasons** and how they change; investigate **puddles**—how they evaporate, can you make them splash etc.?
- ⇒ Encourage play with open-ended toys, junk modelling, make collages
- ⇒ Plant seeds, make a **wildlife area** in the garden, patio or windowsill.

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## Early Mathematical Development

- ⇒ Explore **capacity** at the sand or water table using jugs, empty bottles, toys etc.
- ⇒ Comparing **weight** by getting children to guess heaviest/lightest with cans or packets of cereal
- ⇒ Teach them how to **measure** using rulers, tape measures or hands & feet
- ⇒ **Shape** hunts around the home or outside, or cut out shapes from card and get children to 'hop on the circle', 'jump to the square' etc
- ⇒ Gather a box of small toys, stones, shells, buttons and **sort/count** them based on size, colour or what they are e.g. animals in one pile, shells in another
- ⇒ Notice the **size** of objects, get children to sort into sizes. Get them to be aware of their own size.

## The Arts

- ⇒ Encourage using household materials by making collages from magazines or catalogues.
- ⇒ **The home learning packs will have some basic items**, encourage them to gather a wide range of materials together like paint, colored pencils, chalk, play dough, markers, crayons, scissors and stamps. Mix it up by bringing in unexpected materials like Q-tips, dinosaurs, dry pasta or beans.
- ⇒ Suggest **music** which children can march, dance, stamp or clap to. Songs they can sing along to or have fun actions. Children can **make their own instruments** from junk or pots and pans.
- ⇒ Give the children lots of opportunities for **role-play**—give simple ideas that you use to stimulate creative play such as providing their old clothes for dress up, or **creating costumes** from old sheets or hats from boxes. Dramatic play offers a safe place for children to act out real life situations.

## Physical Development

- ⇒ Encourage parents to create opportunities for their child to be active for **three hours each day**
- ⇒ Show images of children engaged in running, balancing, throwing, catching, hopping, crawling, playing with dough, scissors, tweezers.
- ⇒ Encourage parents to **play games that develop stability** such as stop/start such as Freeze, Musical Statues or games where they are animals and have to put weight on different parts of the body.
- ⇒ Encourage parents to give their child opportunities to develop **their throwing and catching skills**. Start with scarves, bean bags, large balls, squishy balls; increase difficulty by throwing into a bucket.



### Useful Links (click to download):

- ☺ **GRTL 'Gross Motor Skills' Leaflet**—Suggestions and ideas that you may find useful to share with parents in your setting. Some of these ideas were shared and discussed at the recent Transforming Practice Session co-facilitated by RISENI.
- ☺ **NHS 10 Minute Shake-Up!** - Change4Life and Disney have teamed up to bring you play-along games inspired by your favourite Disney and Pixar characters. These 10-minute bursts of fun will really get your kids moving and count towards the 60 active minutes they need every day!
- ☺ **Go Noodle!** - GoNoodle® engages and inspires millions of kids every month to channel their boundless energy—getting them up, moving and becoming more mindful. Created by child development experts, GoNoodle is available for free at school, home, and everywhere kids are!