

Reading opportunities in Nursery

It is important to ensure that the foundations of reading are laid through dedicating time to sounds. At Glynwood we do this through activities such listening walks, playing musical instruments, singing, trying to replicate sounds and developing an awareness of rhyme, alliteration and sounds in words.

Throughout each Nursery session we focus on developing children's speaking and listening skills, which involves children being able to focusing attention on the speaker, hearing and understanding what has been said, turn taking, speaking confidently and staying on topic. These important communication skills are the building bricks of literacy and learning.

Reading opportunities found within our classroom and the daily routine:

- Name cards, peg labels, tray labels and water bottle labels all include symbol and written name.
- Visual daily routine uses Makaton pictures and focuses on left to right orientation.
- Message board includes days of the week, snack of the day and teachers' photographs.
- Book area provides quality stories, some of which are familiar to the children. We encourage a love of books by providing a rich range of texts for the children to share with staff and peers and to access individually. These cover a wide range of genres including fiction, non-fiction, poems and rhymes. Once they've settled children are able to take home library books which are returned on a weekly basis.
- Books/ reading materials available in other areas of the classroom e.g. sticker books, magazines in the writing area, menus and cook books in role play.
- Storytelling area/ puppet show used to retell familiar stories using props such as masks, puppets and story pictures.
- Story time/Songs at the end of every session.
- Classroom areas labelled with text.
- Displays are labelled and this is done with the children.
- Environmental signs e.g. closed signs/toilet sign.
- Staff draw children's attention to new reading or writing in the setting.
- Staff label children's work with them and explain why they are doing this.
- Using the IWB as an integral part of activities e.g. to access information – sing songs, listen and follow instructions when doing activities such as Cosmic Yoga.
- Staff use encourage children to share messages/pictures sent in from home on I pads.
- In Nursery our phonics activities and games concentrate on developing children's speaking and listening skills and phonological awareness. We have small group sessions that focus on these skills each week. These activities are used as a broad and rich curriculum that has speaking and listening at its centre, links language with physical and practical experiences, and provides an environment with plenty of opportunities to engage with books and print.
- At Glynwood, phonics is taught using the RWI scheme. Our Nursery children are introduced to this through the identification of pictures on the sound cards. These are clearly displayed in our classroom.