

A Guide for Parents...

Transition to Foundation Stage 1

Foundation Stage 1 (FS1) may be the first time you have left your child in another person's care. We understand that this can be a worrying time for parents and as a staff team we try to make the transition from home to FS1 as smooth and exciting as possible.

Parents are encouraged to contact school and share relevant information with staff at any time before they start school. Please direct initial enquiries to our school office.

Our Transition

As part of our transition we welcome parents and carers to take part in our Play Shop sessions which take place before each intake is due to start with us. These sessions enable us to build strong relationships with parents and children and provide an opportunity for us to share tools to support learning at home. These sessions take place in our school's large hall.

Initially we call to arrange a date to visit the children at home. Home visits are a great way for practitioners, parents and children to meet and talk in a relaxed and informal setting. They enable parents and carers to share information about their child and enable us to provide information about our setting. During this discussion, we like to get to know about your child's language development, health and self-care needs and pre-school experiences. We also briefly explain each Play Shop and share the dates for when they are to take place.

Phone Call

- Confirmation of a place.
- Arrange a home visit date.

Home Visit

- Getting to know you.
- Check details name, DOB, etc.

Play Shop 1

- Communication and Language.
- Songs and rhymes.

Play Shop 2

- Forest Schools.
- Exploring our local environment.

Play Shop 3

- Messy Play.
- Developing fine and gross motor skills.

Play Shop 4

- Celebration.
- Play with new friends and explore new classroom.

Starting FS1 – Your Child's First Day

Children start school on a staggered intake basis, approximately 4 children per day, to ensure that staff can work with individual children to support them in making a smooth transition. Your starting date will be given to you on or before Play Shop 4.

In the first week of school, your child will receive a new book bag that will contain:

- Welcome Letter
- Weekend Book
- Name Card and Pen
- Reading Diary
- Story Book
- Building Blocks Form
- Gift For Parents And Carers

Play Shop 1 – Communication and Language

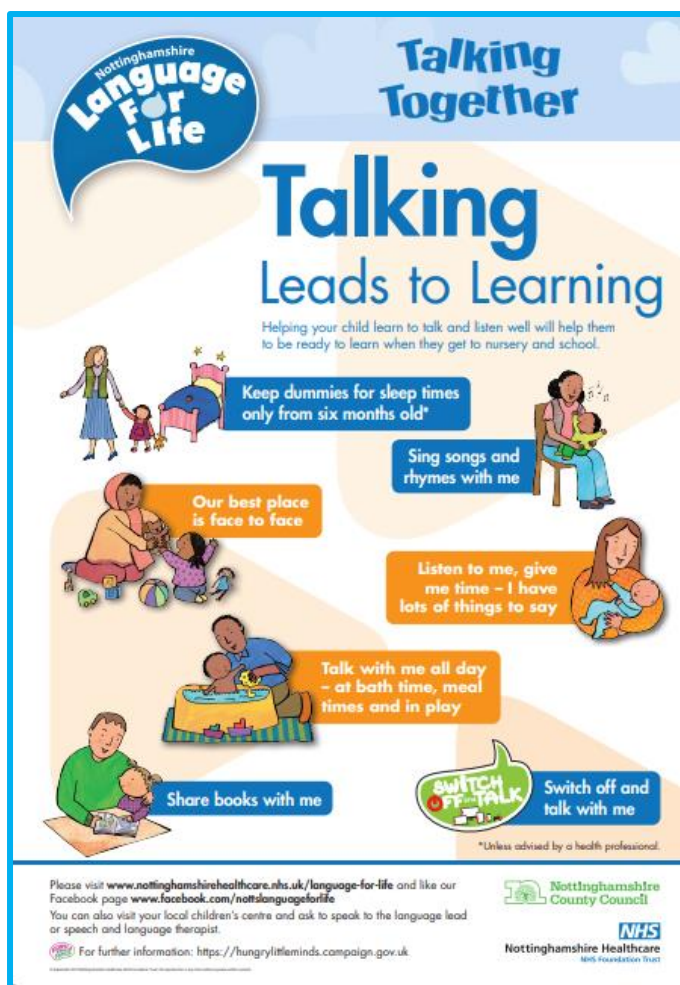
Communication and Language is a prime area of learning in EYFS which is most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. Good speaking and listening skills are crucial. Children need them to do well at school and to make friendships. Much later on, good communication skills are vital for their careers, as well as their all-round wellbeing.

What we do...

Our first Play Shop centres around the importance of helping children's language skills to grow through singing songs and rhymes together. We begin by saying hello to all our new friends, showing them their name cards. (These become their peg labels when they start school.) We then sing a selection of nursery rhymes using props and support the children to access play based learning set up around a nursery rhyme theme. For example, we explore pipes and spider in the water tray, make pots of tea in the kitchen and care for Miss Polly's dolly using the doctors kit. There is also an opportunity to make a Humpty Dumpty puppet and wall which can be taken home alongside a selection of nursery rhyme word cards, picture sequencing cut outs and communication and language leaflets.

Why is singing rhymes and songs important?

- Language Skills - Children learn new words and understand how words are formed.
- Social Skills - Children develop their non-verbal communications skills and form close relationships with adults and other children.
- Mathematical Skills - Children learn number names and practice reciting numbers in order.
- Motor Skills - Children copy actions.
- Musical Skills - Children learn about different beats and rhythms.
- Self-Confidence Skills - Provides opportunities for children to value language and become confident learners.



As a school we follow Nottinghamshire Language for Life which provides advice for everyone in Nottinghamshire, so we can all help our children learn to talk and communicate to the best of their ability.

Play Shop 2 – Forest Schools

Time outdoors benefits children by offering unique opportunities. Being outdoors offers children unique possibilities to see longer distances, observe the horizon, experience the natural world as they feel weather, hear sounds in nature or experience changes in natural light. There is also greater scope to manipulate loose parts and other versatile resources, and to engage in appropriately energetic, risky and adventurous play. Time outdoors benefits children's health and wellbeing and all areas of development and learning. First-hand experience outdoors helps children to make sense of the world, and to learn to care for their environment. Through a sense of belonging and understanding the impact of their actions on their environment, children can become confident caretakers and problem-solvers of the future. Natural environments support children's imaginative play and the development of peer relationships, encouraging collaboration with others. The relative freedom from rules outdoors can lead to more relaxed interactions between adults and children. The outdoors also offers the chance to experiment with the larger scales of space, shape and measure.

What we do...

Our second Play Shop takes place in Dycarr woods. We meet Miss Mace at the school office. We then head off into Dycarr woods and complete forest schools activities such as the ones pictured below.



Play Shop 3 – Messy Play

Messy play involves children using all their senses in the process of exploration, especially the sense of touch. This type of play provides children with plenty of opportunity to mould and manipulate materials without a focus on making or producing something. This particular benefits a children's Physical Development which is a prime area of learning in EYFS.

What we do...

Our third Play Shop centres around the importance of helping children's physical skills grown through investigating materials. We begin by saying hello to all our new friends, showing them their name cards. We then strengthen our fine motor muscles during Dough Disco, which involves moulding play dough in time to music and performing different actions such as rolling it into a ball, flattening it, rolling it into a sausage and squeezing it. Later we access play based learning set up around the messy play theme. For example, we explore arctic animals hidden in foam, dinosaurs stomping in spaghetti and paint on large paper. At the end of this session, each child is given a copy of the Dough Disco instructions, a set of playdough recipes and some balls of playdough to take home.

Why is messy play important?

- Language Skills - Children develop their language skills, including new vocabulary, as they talk about their experiences.
- Social Skills - Children who engage in sensory experiences alongside others learn to share, negotiate, and plan.
- Fine Motor Skills - As children manipulate small objects, they develop their fine motor skills.
- Gross Motor Skills - Children develop gross motor skills by squatting, jumping, or otherwise moving their bodies.
- Dramatic Play Skills - Children frequently use sensory materials to engage in dramatic play such as by "baking cakes" or "building roads".
- Scientific Reasoning Skills - Children learn about cause and effect when manipulating sensory materials.
- Self-Control Skills - Children develop self-control as they learn to respect the rules and boundaries for sensory play.



Play Shop 4 – Celebration

What we do...

Our final Play Shop is a celebration of our transition. We visit our classroom to play and explore. To finish our session, we enjoy some party food! We have our own personalised place mat made using the painting we each created in Play Shop 3 and photos from the previous Play Shops. We get to take our special place mat home to treasure. All new parents have access to our Transition Dojo page where Miss Mace shares further information supporting our transition journey.

