

HOME LEARNING

Why do home learning environments matter?

Understanding the importance of play is key, as is the ability to encourage and build on a child's learning. The starting point needs to be a place where children are

- Singing songs and nursery rhymes
- Listening to stories
- Visiting the library
- Playing with letters and numbers
- Painting and drawing
- Going out and about
- Playing with friends at home

Plenty of work has been done on the importance of home learning in the early years, and all of it makes a very strong case for the crucial role it plays in a child's early development.

Just some of the things that we know:

- Increased learning opportunities at home have been shown to have a positive effect on literacy and numeracy attainment at school.
- Home learning environments impact school readiness.
- As early years professionals, we know how to create a positive learning environment but not all parents do. At Birkbees we take time to explain the best way for parents to interact with their child.
- We cover ideas like:
 - Using a wide vocabulary wherever possible
 - Using open-ended questions and waiting for the child to answer
 - Giving praise and encouragement
 - Giving children choices.
- Sharing observations of children's progress through our online system is one way we engage parents. This helps parents to have a background knowledge of what's going on with their child's development in nursery.
- Seeing what's going on at home is important too, so to help we encourage parents to contribute observations and photos from their time away from the setting too.
- Our online system, Parentzone, allows parents to add observations, notes and photos at home, which can be seen by the child's key person and used to aid assessment and planning.
- We send home our home learning packs and ideas for easy, low cost activities to do at home.
- Our home learning is displayed in nursery and children take great pride in this.
- So, join in the fun and let us know what you and your child enjoy doing at home and look out for our nursery family learning events to see what we do in nursery and get more ideas for home learning.

