



PLAY

# Westfield Nursery School 'Play Ideas' for Parents

## Introduction

At Westfield Nursery School we believe that parents are a child's first and enduring teachers. They play a crucial role in helping their children learn. Where parents are involved with their children's education and learning both at home and in partnership with the school, their children do better and achieve more. These benefits can be long-lasting and extend to better health, relationships and improved employment prospects.

We made this book entitled 'Play Ideas for Parents' following a consultation process with parents. Previous parents have found it very useful, we hope you do too. We welcome any feedback and further ideas so we can keep this leaflet up to date. If you have any comments please speak to your child's teacher.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the creation of this leaflet.





## **Benefits of Parental Partnership**

The benefits for the children are:

- It is easier for children to learn when they get encouragement from home.
- They will do better and achieve more when their parents are involved.
- Children get access to more activities in and out of school when there are more adults to help.
- Their concerns can be sorted out more quickly when their parents have a positive relationship with school staff.
- They are happy when their parents are enjoying events in the school.

The benefits for parents are:

- Their children do better when they are involved.
- They are better able to help and encourage their children.
- They have more information about their children's education.
- Parents can build their own confidence and skills.
- Where there is a positive relationship between parents and their child's school there are benefits all round.
- Parents get reassurance that their children are receiving a good education.

## **Books/ Rhymes/ Songs**

- ✓ Enjoy spending time sharing books
- ✓ Sing nursery rhymes
- ✓ Sing songs, such as the counting songs
- ✓ Remember songs and rhymes can be enjoyed at any time in any place
- ✓ Turn off the television or radio
- ✓ Repetition is good
- ✓ Make it fun!
- ✓ Encourage your child to join in and use lots of praise
- ✓ Join the local library





## Sorting and Counting

- ✓ Sort buttons by size, colour and by how many holes
- ✓ Sort coins and talk about them
- ✓ Match socks from the laundry basket
- ✓ Lay the table
- ✓ Count steps, buttons, coins, marbles 1:1
- ✓ Look for numerals in the environment e.g. numbers on the remote control or telephone



Many children think counting is just saying the words and don't realise that it has to do with quantity. Touch each thing as you count it and make it clear that the last number you say tells you how many things there are altogether.

## Play dough

Make play dough with

- Half cup salt
- 1 cup plain flour
- 1 cup water with colouring
- 3 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1 tablespoon oil



Mix well and cook gently over a low heat until it forms a ball.

Squish it, squash it, roll it and cut it!

Make shapes, snakes and cakes. HAVE FUN!

(Store in an air tight container in the fridge, should keep for a few weeks.)

## Printing

Printing is great fun! Cut a potato in half, trim into different shapes. Dip into the paint and print.

- ✓ Talk about shapes, colours and repeating patterns
- ✓ Talk about large and small
- ✓ Count as you print. Can you print 3 shapes? Can you print 4 of the same shape? Can you print two shapes that are different?

What else can you find to print with?





## **Threading**

Threading is a good way to develop fine motor skills and to improve concentration and perseverance. It is also a great way to explore patterns, a fundamental element of maths.

Use food colourings to colour dry pasta tubes. Thread the uncooked dry pasta on to cord to make a necklace. Try and make repeating patterns.

You can also thread with beads, buttons, card tubes, pieces of paper or card...



## **Imaginative Play**

Playing imaginative games, such as role play or with small world toys is very important because children are developing their social and emotional skills, language skills and thinking skills. Try dressing up, using one object to represent another, having a picnic or using small figures.

