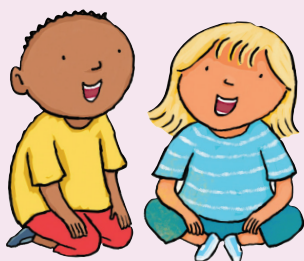


## COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

Your child does not need to know the alphabet/phonics or be able to read and write before they start school. They will learn all these things whilst at school, however, here is a list of things which will help your child to be ready for more learning at school. This is not exhaustive and not a tick list – all children are unique – they will have their own interests and will develop at different rates.



Does your child have favourite songs and rhymes?

Do they have a favourite book? Do you read on a regular basis with your child? It will be a huge boost to your child's future literacy skills if they are familiar with several stories and rhymes before they start school. If they have a favourite story can they 'tell' you the story? This is a start to reading skills. Why not read our **parent factsheet** about sharing books or use the **activity sheets** on sharing books about starting school?

Does your child understand and use prepositions (a preposition is a word used before a noun (or a pronoun) to show the relationship to the other word). For example words such as: in; on; next to; and under. You can model the use of prepositions when talking to your child. For example "can you put the cars in the box" or "it is under the table"

Can they recall an event in the correct order? E.g. "We went to the park and saw the ducks"

Is your child able to ask and answer 'what', 'who' and 'how' questions? For example "What are you doing?" "Who is jumping?" "How did the path get wet?"

Does your child speak in sentences? Typically how many words will they use in a sentence 5? 6? or more?

Can your child carry out a small task/errand? For example "can you please get me the TV remote" or "can you please tidy up your dolls?"

Can your child start a conversation? Can they join in a conversation making relevant replies or comments?

After you have read a book to your child are they able to answer simple questions? For example "who did the mouse meet first?" or "Where did Grandma go?"

### PACEY IS THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDCARE AND EARLY YEARS

We promote best practice and support childcare professionals to deliver high standards of care and learning. We have 30,000 members – childminders, nannies and nursery workers – working around England and Wales. Every day they demonstrate their commitment to the highest standards of care and help children get the best start in life.