

## Tendring School Readiness Project

The aims of the project are to address the issue of 'School Readiness' in order to help ensure that Tendring Children have appropriate opportunities to acquire the skills they need to be ready to learn once they start school.

### What does it mean to be School Ready?

There has been much discussion about the term "school readiness". The revised Early Years Foundation Stage September 2014 *"promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life"*

A series of workshops were held across Tendring involving schools, early years settings and children's centres, to discuss and agree what this means.

From the workshops these attributes were considered to be the most important to enable a child to be school ready.

- Be excited, enthusiastic, curious and confident about learning
- Be resilient and ready to take on all that is on offer
- Ask questions, take risks and find solutions
- Feel safe, secure and cared for
- Know that they are at the forefront of the adult's mind.
- Feel that the contributions they make are valued and respected
- Have a broad range of knowledge and skills gained through everyday experiences.
- Be active and healthy
- Feel that their efforts will be recognised and celebrated
- Be comfortable to communicate their thoughts, ideas and needs in their own way.
- Start to develop an awareness of their own emotions and behaviour as well as being able to reflect upon them
- Be independent by using self-care skills
- Start to develop their turn taking and co-operative skills
- Be comfortable in approaching others

For the child this will mean

- I am excited, curious, enthusiastic and confident about learning
- I am willing to have a go
- I am feeling happy and secure
- I am active and healthy
- I am Friendly and helpful
- I am able to share
- I am able to communicate my needs

For Parents enabling a child to be school ready this will mean

- Recognising that you are your child's most important role-model
- Having fun with your child: playing, talking and sharing together regularly and frequently.
- Using every day experiences as learning opportunities and giving your child opportunities to take the lead
- Doing familiar and different things together and showing your interest in discovering new things
- Encouraging your child to try out their ideas and different ways of doing things.
- Being encouraging by giving feedback and showing an interest.
- Celebrating your child's achievement in language development – singing songs, nursery and finger rhymes and making time for talk
- Supporting your child's self-help skills so that they learn to do things for themselves
- Recognising and talking through your child's feelings and different emotions
- Providing other opportunities for your child to develop independence skills.
- Allowing enough time for relaxation, rest and play
- Providing opportunities for your child to meet and relate to others including adults beyond close family and friends so that they positively experience socialising, sharing toys and turn taking
- Establishing a good sleep routine
- Reading with and to your child, every day if you can.
- Involving your child in getting to know their school before starting
- Seeking professional advice and guidance, particularly in terms of health related matters
- Ensuring your child is as active and healthy as they can be
- Providing meaningful opportunities for your child to experience that not everything happens at once and on their demand
- Promoting children's independence skills by giving them choices

