**Suggested learning experiences to develop Literacy and numeracy at home**

**Listening and Talking** - Research has shown that children who can recite 8 traditional nursery rhymes by heart by the time they are 4 are the generally the best readers and spellers by the time they are 8 (Fox 2001 Goswami and Bryant 1992).

Focus on rhyme. Explain that a rhyme is a word which sounds the same at the end. Recite nursery rhymes, make up rhyming nonsense words, generate words which rhyme with other words, as many as they can.. Say two rhyming words and one that does not rhyme with these and ask your child to identify the odd one out, e.g cat, bat, mouse. Randomise the order. Which one doesn’t rhyme?

Tongue twisters… Challenge your child to learn them, this introduces an awareness of Alliteration, words beginning with the same sound, e.g. Peter Piper… You can begin by using your own family names.

Role Play - pretend shops are a great way of encouraging literacy and numeracy skills - listening to orders, creating shopping lists, using real items from the cupboards. Once empty cut up the packets and look at the words, then cut out the letters and challenge your child to make the family names using the letters. Add in real coins, sort them by type, 1p, 2p, 5p 10p, 50p coins. Explore different ways to make 5p using different coins, then 10p using different coins. Make price lists/posters/tags.

**Reading** – Continue to explore a love of books and stories. Develop book knowledge - Author illustrator, ask your child to point to where the story starts/first word and develop understanding that writing moves left to right. Talk about the sequence of the story, what happened first, next and how did it end. Encourage your child to talk about what they liked/disliked and reasons why.

Encourage your child to create their own story, something the whole family can join with. Everyone can create their own stories and share these before bedtime.

Write down your child’s story and ask them to draw (illustrate) the story. Make sure they add their name to the drawing encouraging them to write their surname and date too.

**Writing** Now would be a good time to explore writing for a purpose; Write a letter to a family member… or a shopping list for essential food items! Fill an oven dish or tray with salt or flour or write outside in the sandpit. Now try and the copy letters. Language helps children write letters, such as, ‘a circle with a little tail’ for the letter ‘a’. Create a recipe of the different family favourite foods or make playdough and write down what is needed at each stage.

**Maths and Numeracy** Dominoes are great family fun. Not only can these be used for matching but great to develop awareness and understanding of recognising amounts without counting (subitising) but also simple addition. If you use the blank ones to start, you will see a full set of 0-6. Encourage your child to identify the amounts on each domino as you show then one by one without needing to count the spots (subitise). As your child becomes more familiar, you can then show the dominoes with all the 1s… Adding on 1, 2 etc. Look for patterns in the dominoes. Practise counting on by counting the spots on one side of the domino (hold that number in your head) then say the next number to count the spots on the other side to get the total number of spots on the domino.

Explore 2D and 3D shapes at home. Go on a shape hunt around your home. Use your iPad to take photos of all of the shapes you find. Can you name the shapes? Do any of the shapes look like something in your environment e.g. wheels look like circles and televisions are rectangular. Talk about the number of sides/corners. Look at the differences between circles/spheres; squares/cubes.