

CHATTER MATTERS PRE-SCHOOL

ABOUT ME:

My name is:

.....

My friends are:

.....

.....

My school will be:

.....

This is me! →

Stick my photograph here

4-5
years

WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER?

Have fun together – even everyday chores can become fun and games.

Remember to look at me when you are talking to me and when I'm talking to you. This helps me to listen and to be able to chat with you.

When I make mistakes with my words, **help me by saying the words how you say them.** Then I can listen and copy you when I am ready. Don't make me say it again though, because this is too hard.

WHAT I AM DOING

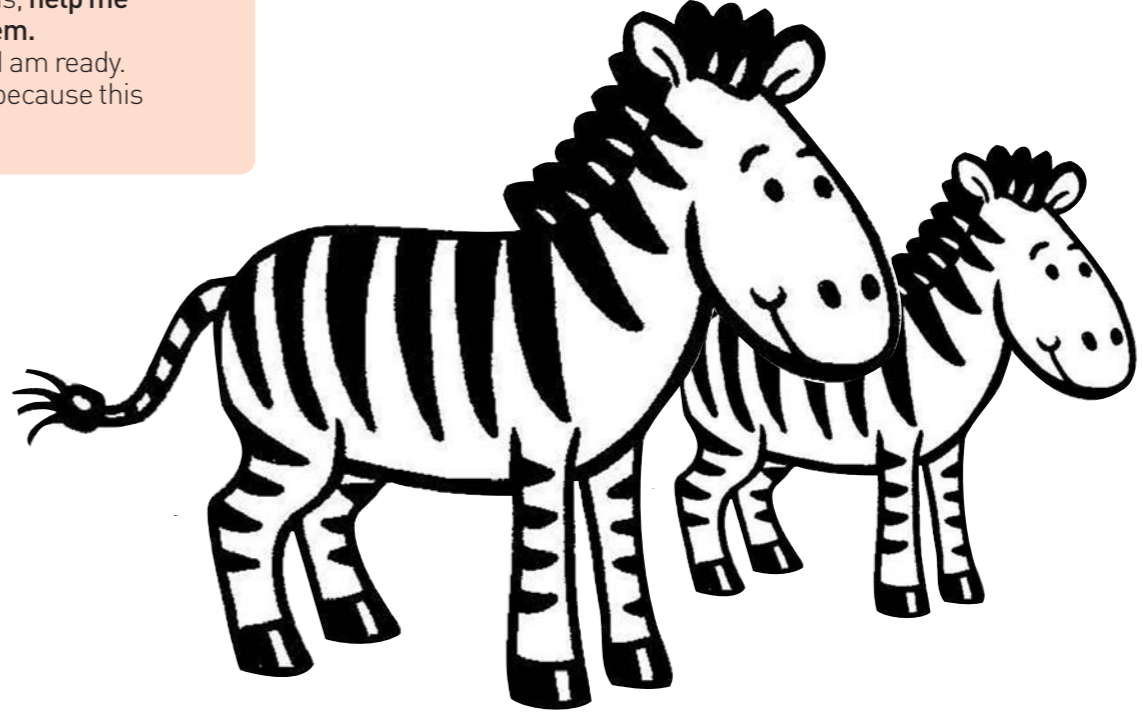
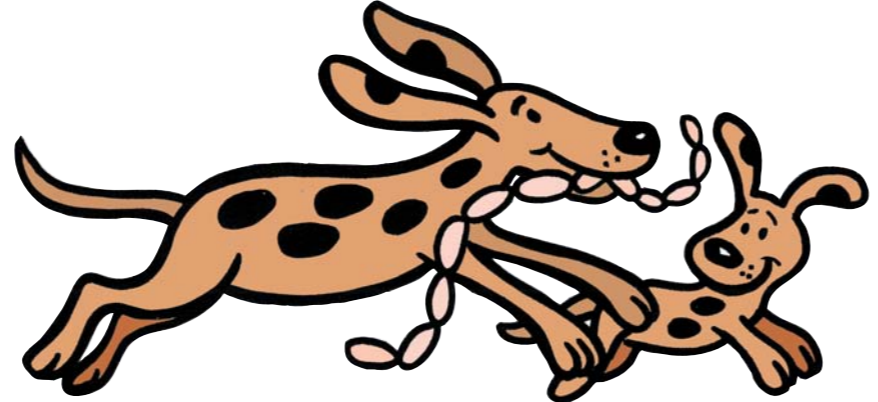
I understand most things you say to me – even about things that have happened or are going to happen. Sometimes I will ask what words mean.

I can tell you my age and whether I am a boy or girl.

I can join in conversations, argue and tell stories. I love singing rhymes and songs.

I don't always get everything right. I might say words like 'runned' instead of 'ran'.

My sounds are not how you say them yet. I can't always manage sounds like 'th', 'r', 's', 'ch' and 'j' and joined-up sounds like 'scr'.



PREPARING FOR SCHOOL



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Going to school can be exciting or worrying. Parents and children need time to get ready.

There is lots to think about – Which school to go to? Is there a uniform? Who is the teacher?

You can help your child be ready for school even if you are a bit worried. If your child can talk well and understand words, this will help.

Explain simply which school your child will go to – take them to see it. Talk about who will be there.

Try to visit the school a couple of months before your child will start. Find where their classroom will be and where they will put their coat. Talk to your child about these things.

Help your child to know when they will start school. Mark off the days on a calendar or make a date chart.

Help your child to do what they need to do at school – listening to the teacher in a big group, making friends, sharing and beginning to learn to read and write.



Listening to the teacher in a big group

Try a different way of looking at books together. Tell your child 'this time, I'm talking and you're listening'.

Explain how to listen well – sit still, watch, think and wait to talk.

Teach your child about waiting for their turn to talk. Tell them 'Alfie's talking now, it's your turn next'.

Making friends and sharing

Try to get to know some of the children who will go to school.

Meet up in the park or invite them to play.

Help your child think about games to play with their friends – which toys will they get out? Have you got more than one of the same kind of toy, to make sharing easier?

Help the children to understand about sharing. Give them an amount of time to have the toy. Say things like, 'when I count to ten, it's Harry's turn'.

Join in with the children, by sorting a drink or a snack for them.

Getting ready for reading and writing

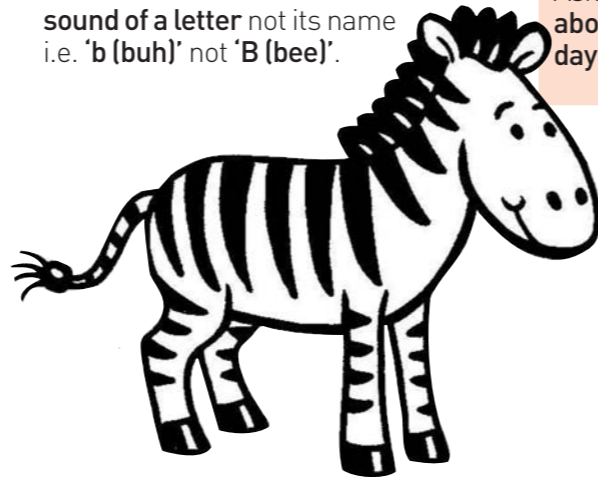
Singing with your child helps them to learn about rhyming.

Rhyming is a basic step towards learning to read.

Help your child to understand what they know by telling them the words that rhyme. 'Hey, dock and clock, they nearly sound the same, they rhyme.' (This is a vital lesson in preparation for reading and writing).

Help your child to learn about sounds.

Remember to talk about the sound of a letter not its name i.e. 'b (buh)' not 'B (bee)'.

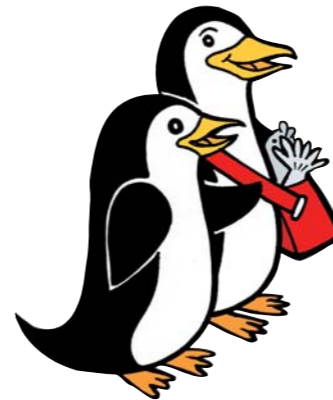


Play games like finding things that begin with the same sound i.e. 'p (puh)' – 'pen' and 'puppet' or 'c (cuh)' – 'cat' and 'car'.

Find pictures to stick in a book. Think about which pictures go together. Think about the sounds not how the word is written down – 'chocolate' goes with 'chicken' and 'chin', not 'cardboard'.

When your child has started school, try to find a special five minutes on the way home or when they get back.

Ask open questions like 'Tell me about your day', 'How was your day?' 'What was the best bit?'.



For more information about your child's communication, visit www.talkingpoint.org.uk

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CHATTER CHART PRE-SCHOOL



Making life easier for you and better for your child.