



# The Winchester School, Jebel Ali

## Family Learning Newsletter (Foundation Stage 1) – October 2025

Area of learning	Focus	Home activities/How can you help your child at home	Useful website
<p><b>Prime Area</b> <b>Communication and Language</b></p>	<p><b><u>Listening and attention</u></b> Is able to follow directions. (if not intently focused)</p> <p><b><u>Understanding</u></b> Responds to instructions with more elements.</p> <p><b><u>Speaking</u></b> Uses longer sentences. (e.g. 'Mummy gonna work.')</p> <p>Retell a simple past event in correct order.</p>	<p><b>Encourage</b> your child to make eye contact and respond when their name is called. Model good listening habits by attentively listening to your child and acknowledging their thoughts in your responses. You may also play simple games such as <i>'Simon Says'</i> to <b>encourage</b> them to follow directions like <i>stand up, sit down, clap your hands, jump high, or touch your knees</i>. These playful interactions will support the development of strong listening skills.</p> <p><b>Talk</b> to your child using clear and simple instructions, gradually including tasks that involve more than one step, for example: <i>"Put the cars away, wash your hands, and come for lunch."</i> Celebrate their efforts with attention, praise, and affection, helping them build confidence in their ability to understand and respond.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to speak in short, meaningful sentences at home, outdoors, in the car, and at school. <b>Model</b> this by speaking clearly and slowly in sentences, guiding them to express their needs using words such as <i>"I am thirsty, I need water."</i></p> <p>Provide opportunities to build vocabulary and confidence by engaging in activities such as Show and Tell, pretend play, bedtime stories, or looking at family pictures. <b>Encourage</b> your child to describe experiences in order, helping them connect language with real-life events.</p> <p><b>Share</b> family photographs and <b>talk</b> about special occasions like birthdays, visits to grandparents, or picnics at the park or</p>	<p><a href="#">Simple-communication-and-language-activities</a></p>

		<p>beach. <b>Encourage</b> your child to recall and retell these events, nurturing both memory and communication skills.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> correct use of language by telling repetitive stories, and playing games which involve repetition of words or phrases.</p>	
<p><b>Physical Development</b></p>	<p><b><u>Moving and handling</u></b> Shows increasing control in holding, using and manipulating a range of tools and objects such as tambourines, jugs, hammers and mark-making tools.</p> <p><b><u>Health and self-care</u></b> Can name and identify different parts of the body.</p>	<p><b>Encourage</b> your child to take part in simple practical activities at home, such as pouring water from one jug to another without spilling, or transferring pulses from one container to another using a spoon. These activities strengthen fine motor skills and support hand–eye coordination. Provide toolboxes with materials that make marks, allowing children to <b>explore</b> freely both indoors and outdoors.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to identify and name different parts of the body along with their functions. You can do this by simply pointing and asking questions such as, “<i>Where is your hand? Where are your toes?</i>” and naming the body part as you go about daily routines.</p> <p><b>Talk</b> to your child during everyday moments—while wiping their nose, gently mention the body part, or when crossing the road, pause and wait for your child to extend their hand to you. Bath time can also be a wonderful opportunity to name each body part in a playful and natural way.</p> <p><b>Share</b> these experiences with your child consistently, helping them to connect language with real-life actions. This will build their understanding, vocabulary, and confidence in expressing themselves.</p>	<p><a href="#">Fun-physical-activities-to-do-with-kids-aged-2-to-4</a></p>



		<p>Invite your child to draw or color their friends, emphasizing what makes each friend special. <b>Talk</b> about similarities and differences in a positive way: “You both like drawing,” or “Your friend has a different colored hair, and that’s wonderful!”</p> <p>Read a story about diversity or friendship and encourage your child to share what they like about the characters.</p>	
<p><b>Specific Area Literacy</b></p>	<p><b>Reading</b> Looks at and enjoys print and digital books independently.</p> <p>Listens to and joins in with stories and poems when reading one -to-one and also in small groups.</p> <p><b>Books</b> Hello World! My body by Jill McDonald Me and my amazing body by Joan Sweeney The Family book by Todd Parr My family, your family by Lisa Bullard House for sale an ORT book My House by Byron Barton Building a house by Byron Barton</p>	<p><b>Encourage</b> your child to choose books that spark their interest. Create a cosy and inviting reading corner where you can read aloud together, explore picture books, and describe what you see. <b>Model</b> how to enjoy books by looking at the cover page, turning the pages slowly one by one, observing the illustrations, and talking about the story. Offer your child a variety of books—both at home and online—from different genres, so they can experience the joy of making choices and exploring new stories.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to sing their favourite rhymes and songs. <b>Talk</b> about their favourite stories and <b>share</b> your own, creating a warm exchange of experiences. Play clapping games such as “Pat-a-Cake” or “Miss Mary Mack” to help them learn rhythm. <b>Model</b> clapping to the beat, invite them to sing along, and encourage them to act out a story character using props.</p> <p><b>Share</b> stories your child already knows and pause at intervals, giving them the opportunity to complete the sentences or say the next word. <b>Encourage</b> them to bring stories into their play by using puppets, soft toys, or real objects as props to retell and enjoy the story in their own way.</p>	<p><a href="#">Early-years-literacy-activities</a></p>

	<p><b><u>Writing</u></b>  Enjoys drawing and writing on paper, screen and on different textures such as in sand or play dough and through using touch screen technology</p> <p>Imitates adults writing by making continuous lines of shapes and symbols (early writing) from left to right.</p>	<p><b>Encourage</b> your child to draw freely and use their imagination. <b>Talk</b> about their drawings, listen carefully, and praise their efforts with hugs, stickers, or high fives—even if the marks are not recognisable.</p> <p>At home, you can practice simple activities like making marks in sand, painting with brushes or fingertips, or using rollers. Educational games on tablets or laptops can also build confidence with technology.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to try different lines and patterns such as zigzags, loops, or simple standing and sleeping lines by imitating your writing. Provide a variety of tools and materials for writing as part of daily play, and <b>model</b> moving from left to right while drawing or writing.</p>	
<p><b>Mathematics</b></p>	<p><b><u>Counting</u></b>  May enjoy counting verbally as far as they can go.</p>	<p><b>Encourage</b> your child to sing counting rhymes such as “1, 2, <i>Buckle My Shoe,</i>” “<i>Two Little Dicky Birds,</i>” or “<i>Five Little Ducks.</i>” <b>Share</b> simple props to act out these rhymes and make learning fun. Give opportunities to count aloud in</p>	

	<p><b><u>Shape</u></b> Chooses puzzle pieces and tries to fit them in.</p> <p>Shows awareness of shape similarities and differences between objects.</p>	<p>sequence during everyday routines—while in the car, on a shopping trip, or at home.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> puzzle play to build problem-solving and visual skills. <b>Talk</b> about the different ways to play and let your child explore the pieces independently. Offer gentle support with clues when needed. Try character puzzles, body parts, shapes, or colour puzzles.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to recognise shapes in books, at home, and in the environment—for example, a door or window as a square, a clock as a circle, or a plate as a round shape. <b>Share</b> patterns you notice around you and invite your child to find similar ones.</p> <p><b>Talk</b> about how objects are alike in shape, and <b>encourage</b> sorting toys by colour, shape, size, or other features. These activities build observation, comparison, and early maths skills in a playful way.</p>	<p><a href="#">Shapes! A Geometry Activity for Children • ABCya!</a></p>
<p><b>Understanding the World</b></p>	<p><b><u>The World</u></b> Talks about why things happen and how things work.</p> <p>.</p> <p><b><u>Technology</u></b> Shows an interest in technological toys with knobs or pulleys, real objects such as cameras</p>	<p><b>Share</b> stories with your child about the world around them and provide opportunities to observe and explore. Use magnifiers, photographs, or apps to listen to and recognise different environmental sounds. Set aside time for sand and water play, where children learn simple concepts through hands-on exploration.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to develop practical skills by using everyday equipment at home—twisting knobs, winding toys, using a CD player with a remote, or exploring devices like tablets, iPads, cameras, and mobile phones under guidance.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.family.co/blog/eyfs-focus-9-activities-to-help-kids-in-understanding-the-world">https://www.family.co/blog/eyfs-focus-9-activities-to-help-kids-in-understanding-the-world</a></p>

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<b>Expressive Arts and Design</b>	<p><b><u>Creating with materials</u></b> Shows an interest in the way sound makers and instruments sound and experiments with ways of playing them. E.g loud/quiet, fast/slow</p> <p><b><u>Being imaginative and expressive</u></b> Uses everyday materials to explore, understand and represent their world- their ideas, interests and fascinations.</p>	<p><b>Encourage</b> your child to explore different musical instruments. You can even create simple drums or shakers at home using recyclable materials. Help them produce rhythms with shakers, xylophones, clapping, or tapping—exploring loud, soft, fast, and slow sounds. Sing rhymes together while they play along. Create a small <i>music corner</i> with instruments and <b>share</b> music cue cards (pictures of loud, soft, peppy, fast, or slow music) to guide their play.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> pretend play and join in to understand your child’s interests. <b>Talk</b> through role-play—acting out stories or rhymes, flying like birds, moving like animals, or making sounds with toys and pictures. <b>Share</b> stimulating resources such as pots, pans, fabric, boxes, ladles, water, or sticks—showing how everyday items can spark imagination. Use simple household objects as props: cushions for a fortress, an umbrella for a tent, or a scarf as a cape or wings. These playful experiences build creativity, problem-solving, and joyful learning.]</p>																									
<p><b><u>Upcoming events:</u></b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>World Teacher’s Day</td> <td>Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> October</td> </tr> <tr> <td>World Space Week</td> <td>Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>World Habitat Day</td> <td>Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October</td> </tr> <tr> <td>World Mental Health Day</td> <td>Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> October</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mid-term break for students</td> <td>Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> October</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Global Dignity Day</td> <td>Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SEWA Day</td> <td>Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> October</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hair for Hope - Breast Cancer Awareness</td> <td>Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> October</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ICT Week</td> <td>Monday – Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Oct</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Math Workshop</td> <td>Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Digital Citizenship Day</td> <td>Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Innovation Day</td> <td>Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October</td> </tr> </table>				World Teacher’s Day	Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> October	World Space Week	Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> to Friday, October 10 <sup>th</sup>	World Habitat Day	Tuesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> October	World Mental Health Day	Friday, 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Mid-term break for students	Monday, 13 <sup>th</sup> to Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Global Dignity Day	Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> October	SEWA Day	Monday, 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Hair for Hope - Breast Cancer Awareness	Monday, 20 <sup>th</sup> October	ICT Week	Monday – Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Math Workshop	Wednesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Digital Citizenship Day	Thursday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Innovation Day	Thursday, 24 <sup>th</sup> October
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