

3+ ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT ASSESSMENTS AND LIFE SKILLS FOR YOUR CHILD



At BLS we work with ALL children in these areas on a regular basis, however the most prepared children are those who are supported by you at home.

Following are activities children may be presented with at an assessment, but are also life skills that all children are helped to attain.

Schools are not looking for tutored children, or those who have learnt by rote. They are looking for children who are inquisitive, curious with aptitude and an ability to engage.

Communication & Language

Social skills including eye contact and smiling, along with willingness and ability to communicate 1 to 1, will be assessed.

Politeness, good manners and general positive behaviour.

Compliance when given simple instructions. Start with a 1 step instruction & when ready add more steps.

Willingness to have a go. (possibly at something new)

Ability to ask for own needs e.g. toileting

Questions about themselves and their family.

Questions asked about the world around them.

Role play opportunities for them to engage with e.g. teddy bears or farm animals.

Listen to a story & encourage them to ask questions about it.

Singing nursery rhymes & dancing.

Assessing – curiosity, understanding, communication, confidence, imagination, socialisation, compliance, vocabulary, understanding prepositions, concentration and engagement.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Jigsaw puzzles

Board games with dice & dominoes.

Matching games

Sorting pictures into groups.

Odd one out games

Opposites

Assessing – problem solving, tenacity, motivation, approach to tasks, working things out independently, ability to follow instructions, turn taking, sharing, ability to cope if they don't win.

Physical Development

Balance beams / benches / stepping stones / hanging off monkey bars.

Rolling, kicking, throwing & catching balls/bean bags.

Using outdoor play equipment – such as climbing a ladder & using a slide.

(Developing hand muscles when climbing.)

Jumping.

Build something out of blocks, duplo or lego.

Playdough.

Threading.

Ability to hold/use scissors correctly.

Ability to independently put on/take off coats & shoes.

Pin boards & activities with buttons. e.g. dressing themselves.

Painting (and talk about what they have painted).

Pencil grip. – Encourage them to use 3 fingers.

(Holding something (e.g a pen lid) between the last 2 fingers supports this.)

Colouring – e.g, colouring a particular shape in a particular colour,
also the ability to colour between the lines.

Assessing – gross motor, fine motor & possibly the ability to use a knife & fork. Pencil grip & control.

Letters and Numbers

Letter & phonic recognition.
Recognising their own name
and/or the letters within it.

Number recognition.

Games with dice &
dominoes.

Shape & colour recognition.
Sorting lengths of items.

How can you support your child?

The key is communication - ask and answer questions. Encourage them to talk about themselves, their birthday, how old they are, their siblings, where they live etc. Talk about the days of the week, yesterday, tomorrow, the months of the year, weather and the seasons. Ask them to sequence a day out when you get home. Build their vocabulary e.g. names of vegetables, animals and their homes, mothers and babies, opposites, (day/night big/small).

Provide them with rich experiences at the weekend – going to the park, the zoo, a museum etc. Talk about everything you see, therefore supporting their language acquisition. Encourage questions from them, by posing questions to them.

Work through the list of activities above, on a daily basis and support your child's acquisition of any skills mentioned. Use the bank of resources in the Home Learning tab of the Parent Area in the BLS website. If your child is attending an assessment – read the Assessment Day Tips resource that is also available there.

Most of all encourage curiosity and a love for learning.