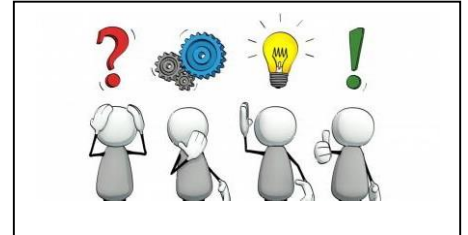


## Parent Information Sheet

### Help Your Child To Think

*We often do far too much thinking for children. If we want children to grow up to be confident learners, think things through and solve problems, then we must encourage children to do this for themselves from a young age. Move away from telling and help your child think for themselves.*



#### Things to try

- **Talk** – Talk about everything. Talk as you are doing things together, going for a walk, going shopping, looking at cars, changing seasons, buying presents, when playing, while reading and even when watching television.
- **Notice** – Notice everything around you. Discuss colours, shapes, sizes, smells, tastes, sounds, textures, materials, weather and people.
- **Compare** – Compare everything. Ask questions - is it smaller, bigger, wider, heavier, lighter, the same size, same colour, thinner or fatter?
- **Questions** – Use question words – When? What? How? Where? Why? Ask your child questions such as What do you think about...? What would you do....? Is there a different way to.....? What would happen if.....? How do you think we could change.....?
- **Measure** – Use a measuring tape to measure people and objects together. How long is it? How wide is it? How tall is it? Compare objects and notice growth over time.
- **Prepositions** – Use prepositions to explain where things are – behind, in front, on, underneath, back to front, beside.
- **Count** – Count everything! EG tins in the cupboard, packets on shelves, biscuits for snack, knives and forks while setting the table, toys while playing, socks in washing, steps on the stairs, cars while walking.....
- **Make Believe** – Have fun dressing up and role playing using clothing and equipment such as princesses, doctors, tea sets ..... Use construction kits such as Leo to invent, pretend, create, design and build.
- **Collections** – Make collections of things to talk about and compare – shells, flowers, stones etc
- **Create** – Have a selection of creative resources such as pens, paper, paints, play dough, card, felts, pencils, glue, scissors, stickers, material and ribbons etc. Let your child let their imagination run wild.
- **Model** – Show your child how things are done and talk it through. Paint together, create together, play together, read together, build together.
- **Time** – Give your child time to think for themselves and work through a problem before supporting them.
- **Praise** – Praise your child when they have thought carefully or solved a problem.