



Bumble Bees Homework.

This week is singing...why is it so important?

It's easy, it helps children learn to talk, they learn rhythm, rhyme and a whole range of new words and phrases. Later it helps them read and write. It also soothes, calms, encourages creativity and builds a close bond between parents and children. It's also a good way to get older sibling involved in the play.

Please look at the attached booklet for some of the songs we sing in school. But it doesn't matter, use ones you know, share them with us so we can sing them, or pick a tune and make it up!

Whatever you do, smile, make eye contact as much as possible, encourage actions and have some fun.

Special Homework! Have a go at some of these ideas (or all if you are brave)! Take a picture, email it or Tweet it and we'll print it for you:

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- Cook together, let them help, even if it's messy and pretend.
- Make some play dough together (I've put the recipe on the back of this sheet for you).
- Read a story and act out the characters.
- Play with your child at the park, climb, run, ride their scooter, play chase, get out of breath and have a giggle.

So...playdough...what's the point and what do I do?

Playdough is a squashy, squeeze lump of imaginative fun that children love to create with.

It helps to build strength and stamina in fingers and wrists ready for writing.

It teaches children to use different tools carefully and effectively.

It develops language, but only if you play with them, comment on what they are doing as well as what you are doing. Don't ask too many questions! Leave little pauses for them to talk.

They can pretend to do the things they see you doing, like cooking. Give them real objects alongside the playdough, make a meal, let them "cook" for you and pretend to really love it and gobble it all up.

It can help you to develop children's listening skills, attention and concentration. Give them one instruction at a time, for example, "give me the blue cup please". Gradually over time add one more instruction and one more, "give me the blue cup and the fork please".

My biggest top tip is...relax, have fun, play and enjoy some quality time with your little ones.

Oh it's so cool!
How do I make it at home?

2 cups of plain flour in a big bowl.

Add two cups of salt, 2 table spoons of cream of tartar (helps it to stay fresh) and 4 table spoons of oil (helps it stay soft and squashy). Add two cups of boiling water straight from the kettle and stir with a wooden spoon.

With the oil you can add colour, herbs, spices, flavours, glitter anything you like. Keep in a plastic bag for up to a week or till it goes "off". Knead the dough on the table/side until its well mixed, soft and cooled. Enjoy.