

## Year one (5 – 6)

### A child of this age can:

#### Concentration and listening

- Demonstrate well established two channelled attention in a variety of situations

#### Understanding

- Understand complex questions, e.g. "what will happen?", "why"
- Understand cause and effect
- Now understand and tell jokes using simple word play
- Now follow longer instructions
- Begin to explain non- literal language

#### Speech

- Use most speech sounds, although "r" and "th" may not be completely established
- Possibly still be experiencing difficulty saying longer words with difficult sound combinations, e.g. hospital
- Identify the first sound of a word

**NB** Some words in speech may still be a little difficult to understand but are clearer when repeated

#### Talking

- Use sentences of up to 10 words
- Join sentences together using "because" and "to"
- Start to use irregular tenses and plurals
- Tell a story or retell an event although it may still be disjointed and incomplete
- Use a vocabulary of between 3,00 and 5,000 words
- Use superlatives and comparatives
- Indicate the conditional concept, e.g. using should, would, may
- Recognise and identify words with more than one meaning and links between words

#### Big muscles and movement skills (these can be referred to as gross motor skills)

- Stand on one foot for 10 seconds
- Skip along for 4 -5 metres
- Walk around a room/building and not collide with objects or people
- Swing and climb with agility
- Ride a bike
- Bounce, catch and at least 5 – 10 times

### Hand and finger skills (these can be referred to as fine motor skills)

- Cut, draw and trace
- Use blocks, puzzle pieces and beads to complete appropriate tasks
- Copy a triangle
- Draw a person showing several body parts in the correct place
- Print some letter

**NB** Children tend to show hand preference from about the age of four – five; definite hand dominance is established at about seven to eight. Some children may use one hand for writing and the other for other fine motor tasks.



Children who are left handed when writing, often find it easier to hold scissors in their right hand and the paper in their left. This means they can use the left hand to move the paper rather than the scissors.

### Self Care Skills

- Dress by themselves with no support or supervision, choosing appropriate clothing can use small buttons, zips and other fastenings
- Put on socks correctly
- To tell left from right
- Use a knife to spread and cut soft food.
- Wash hands after using the toilet
- Use toilet completely independently
- Brush their teeth well
- Blow their nose.

### Social Skills

- Start to see another's point of view
- Co-operate with others in play for extended periods of time