

Celebrating Achievement's and Remembering Special Times

In your special delivery from Chelwood at the start of Lockdown was your child's **'Look What I Can Do!' Book**. (Please let us know if you haven't received yours).

These books are really important to children. They celebrate what they can do and what they are proud of. We regularly add photographs and pictures of things they have done at school and home- things they have made, pictures they have drawn, games they have played, skills they have mastered, friends they play with and important adults.

Children love to revisit and talk about these pictures; either on their own, with a friend or with a member of staff. We record what the children say about the pictures (their exact words). The book can motivate children to talk about and reflect on their learning. The book is valuable in that

- it belongs to them and they have complete ownership of them.
- it celebrates their life, learning and experiences.
- it can be very powerful in developing children's self-esteem, language skills and understanding of how they grown and developed over time.
- It is a pictorial record of their progress, both their successes and their challenges.
- It can demonstrate to children how we learn when things that go wrong or when things are tricky.
- It can teach children how important it is to persist and persevere.
- It can remind children that adults are there to support them on their learning journey.

Sharing these books at home, when your child isn't able to come to school can be really valuable in

- Remembering and talking about friends and staff
- Initiating discussions about school and how they feel about not going at the moment
- Being a source of inspiration for things to do, play and make at home

Adding pictures of things they do and how they are spending their while at home is important to value and celebrate this significant period in your child's life. You can print out photos, either at home or using the free photo services available as apps from your smart phone.(such as <https://www.freeprintsapp.co.uk/> or <https://www.snapfish.co.uk/free-prints-app>) Talk to your key person if you need any support with this. You can use speech bubbles or cut out your own shapes of paper to write down your child's comments about their pictures to stick with the

images. Asking open ended questions or making comments really supports children in talking. Here are some ideas things you could say to get your child talking and thinking...

- Tell me about this!
- What do you remember about this?
- That looks like fun!
- Oh, I remember doing that! I liked.... What about you?
- What did you enjoy about doing that?
- That looks tricky! How did you do that?
- How did you get to be so good at....?
- That is amazing! Tell me about it.

Sharing Look What I Can Do! books can support children in reflecting how they have changed and developed during their time at nursery, and that they constantly growing and learning. For example; remembering when they used to get upset when their parent said goodbye, or that they couldn't climb to the top of the climbing frame when they first started nursery but now they can or talking how many new friends they have made since beginning school. Talking about whatever is pertinent to your child in their progress can be really powerful to help children feel more confident about new experiences, develop resilience and feel positive about changes in their lives.

Children have free access to their Look What I Can Do! Books at school. Find a place at home for your child's book to be available to look at whenever your child's needs it. You might want to share the book at bedtime, instead of having a story (children love to do this at school!). Your child might want to share their books on video calls with family and friends.

We look forward to seeing all the additions to your books and celebrating all the amazing learning from home. If you like, you can send photos or videos to us until then. Ask your key person for their school email address, they would love to see what you have all been doing.

Best Wishes,

Caroline