50 things to do before you are five

What is '50 things' Warwickshire?

'50 Things Warwickshire' helps families, grandparents, carers, practitioners and anyone else who uses it, to engage in enjoyable learning activities with children. It is accessed via a simple to use electronic 'APP' and can be used by anyone, anywhere in Warwickshire. Best of all it is free. Each activity is carefully planned to respond to the stages of development for children aged birth to five years. The needs of children with SEND are included making this really inclusive tool.

You can download the app here: 50 Things Warwickshire Download the app here

We also have a Face Book Page: https://www.facebook.com/50thingswarwickshire/

What is covered?

The activities support: *early learning and development, parental attachment and engagement, communication and language development, health and wellbeing and active lifestyles.*

The activities are built around resources and amenities within local communities that celebrate what each has to offer. What's more, they are fun to do! There is a wealth of additional information, that can be accessed by families and professionals, so it also supports professional development.

How can it be used?

'50 Things Warwickshire' will work best in schools and early years and childcare settings when practitioners take the time to consider how to exploit its full potential as an ongoing part of their work supporting children's learning at home.

Can you complete the 50 things in a year ? Can you turn the 50 things into 100 ?

Maybe you can offer workshops to encourage families to download and being to use the app ? We want to see '50 Things Warwickshire' in use across the whole of Warwickshire.

Why will this be helpful?

In Warwickshire in 2022 **34% of children left reception without meeting the 'Good Level of Development** that shows they are not yet ready for the challenges of year one. The 'achievement gap' between disadvantaged children their non-disadvantaged peers increased to 24 percentage points in 2022. Therefore, it is important to consider different approaches to supporting our youngest children. Evidence shows that supporting families with access to high quality, local, low cost opportunities to interact and learn with their children is a successful option. This is why we have made the resource available to all families, practitioners and professionals.

Come and join us

We have around 2444 downloads to date, please come and join us, download the app, and use the poster enclosed with this letter.

50 Things Warwickshire – how many will you achieve ?

We would really like to hear about how you are using this resource in you setting/ school, so please email us photos of your launch days and 50 things activities: email earlyyearsadvisors@warwickshire.gov.uk.

If children are included within photos you share with us, please ensure you obtain permission to share these with us before doing so, as we would like to include them on our Facebook page.

Yours sincerely

Sharon

Sharon Kindred: Lead Commissioner for School and Early Years Improvement

Use 50 Things Before You're 5 to support smooth transitions

We recognise that transition day for school is fast approaching and wanted to draw your attention to the 50 things resources which may be helpful to share with new parents or existing families as it provides a wealth of activities which they could engage with over the summer holiday

Here are just a few ways in which you could promote the use of this resource:

- During your new starters meeting or when showing parents around your school, setting or provision you could share the poster cards and app with parents and encourage them to download it onto their phones.

- In your transition packs or information booklets you could also invite parents to complete some of the challenges over the summer holidays and share photos with you through your parent's app or by bringing them into your school or setting when their child starts. You could also signpost parents to the 50 things Friday posts on Warwickshire's Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/50thingswarwickshire/

- In the new term maybe you could have your own 50 things Friday and invite parents in to see 50 things activities in action. You could create a mini passport of activities to complete and spend time showing parents how to download and use the app and support activities.

- In the new term maybe you could also link 50 things activities to home learning activities and share via online apps which you use to communicate with parents.

These are just a few ideas and we are sure you will no doubt think of many more!

If you do promote 50 things in your school, setting or provision please do share your ideas and photos with us. We would love to hear about and celebrate your good practice within our briefing and Facebook page. Email: earlyyearsadvisors@warwickshire.gov.uk

You can download the app here: https://warwickshire.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!/welcome