



ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

Dear Pre-Prep 1 Parents,

September, 2015

One of the most important tasks for Pre-School teachers is to identify those children who are at risk of potential literacy difficulties at School. Early identification of such children allows for early support.

All children develop at a very different rate, with skills developing particularly rapidly in the nursery and the early school years. Some children develop motor skills first, while others develop language skills first, in fact, children usually develop the skill which they put into practice the most.

At St. Paul's we have been using the PREST (Pre-School Screening Test) for the past 5 years, and it has proven to be a good tool for us. This assessment has been developed as a pre-school screening instrument used routinely within nursery schools for children from 3.6 to 4.5 years of age. It produces a score for each child based on their actual performance on each element of the test and it provides a profile of strengths and weaknesses which can be used to guide the development of in-school support for each individual child.

The PREST has different batteries which screen various aspects of development, such as language (e.g. vocabulary, verbal fluency, phonological discrimination), fine motor skills, gross motor skills and different types of memory (e.g. auditory, visual, spatial).

The Learning Support Unit runs the PREST. After scoring the children's performance we then accompany each individual child as necessary, by providing the appropriate support when required.

The screening will start taking place next week. Your child will only participate if they are within the age range outlined above at the time of testing. You will be receiving your child's screening profile and their results about his/her development with any recommendations to support him/her at home after testing of all children takes place.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any doubts.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Carneiro Leão
Learning Support Unit Coordinator

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