

Thomas

Thomas has recently been placed in Katie and Rob's family with a view to future adoption. Thomas currently attends Lemon Grove Pre-School for 30 hours a week. He has settled well into the home environment and the setting. However, his parents are concerned about him moving onto school.

As Thomas will only just be four when he begins school, his new parents are concerned that he will not be ready for writing activities. They have purchased some books, pens and tracing materials and are sitting with him trying to encourage him to write. Thomas is getting quite cross and upset and they have come to ask for support at Pre-school. His Key Person Yvonne considers how she can reassure his parents and also give them practical ideas.

Yvonne shares her knowledge of children development, explaining how children use their large muscles before their small ones. She explains that at this stage it is fine for Thomas to hold his chunky crayons and paint brush in his fist. Yvonne shares the publication 'What to Expect When' and explains to Katie and Rob that to enable Thomas to make progress it is important to look at his overall development and where he is at the moment.

Discussion with parents revealed that Thomas was a football fan. It was decided to use the EYPP monies to support this interest with a visit from a football coach. Following the visit the setting developed football resources using a shoe box covered in his favourite teams' colours. Thomas cut out pictures of his favourite players and stuck these on his box. Inside the box he kept tickets and a football scarf which he liked to wave. Practitioners filled squeeze bottles with his favourite team colours to make opportunities for mark making. His parents also decided to make a similar box to support him at home and found he really enjoyed this. They were pleased that football had supported the developing bond with his new dad. Thomas is now planning and drawing pictures of his new football themed bedroom.