**Help your child to think**

***One of the most precious gifts we can give our child is our time…***here are some examples of things you can do to get your child thinking 😊

***Notice everything around you***

Discuss colour, shape, size, smell, sounds, tastes, texture and materials.

***Compare everything***

Is it bigger, smaller, wider, narrower, fatter, thinner, heavier, lighter?

***Use the question words***

When? How? What? Where? Why?

***Say where everything is***

Behind, in front, upside down, back to front, on the top, underneath

***Show how things are done***

Take things to pieces, build them again, cook together, paint together, clean together

***Count everything***

Tins in cupboard, packets on shelf, biscuits for tea, chips, knives and forks, socks out to dry

***Essential words***

What do you think? What would you do? How could we….? Is there a better way? How could we change this? What would happen if?

***Talk about everything!***

Talk as you do everything together – going for a walk, laying the table, at the shop, looking for things, the change of seasons

***Try to use the phrase***

Stop, let me think!

***Measure everything***

How long? How tall? How wide? How thick? How deep?

***Fair discipline***

Agree ground rules, discuss problems, talk things through, don’t be afraid to use fair sanctions

***Praise them when they do well***

Tell them they have done well, have stickers, points for good behaviour, red and green lights or flags for ‘stop’ and ‘go’

***Have a dress up box***

Pretend, imagine, invent, create, re-design, re-build

***Collect a treasure box***

Gather things for creating and making, coloured bits and pieces, boxes, stickers, ribbons, interesting ‘rubbish’

