

Ready for School



Ideas for helping your child at home as they get ready to start school .



How can I help my child be ready for school?

This is a question we are often asked by parents during the induction process, and so we have put together a few ideas of things that you can do at home with your child over the next few weeks to support their development and help prepare them for school.

You will notice that we have used words such as encourage, try, allow, make and explore. This is because these are suggestions for activities that you could do at home together. It is not intended to be a tick list of things we expect all children to be able to do.

It is important to remember that all children develop at different rates and all children will arrive in the EYFS with different strengths and areas for development. If you have any questions please talk to a member of the team.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Encourage your child to say please and thank you.

When playing with your child, support them in sharing and looking after toys.

Allow them to choose some toys themselves and reflect on opinions about these toys; e.g. this is my favourite doll/car.

Try to support your child in taking turns with others.

Encourage your child to talk about their feelings.



Physical Development

Encourage your child to handle small and large equipment safely and correctly.

Encourage your child to get dressed and undressed independently.

Ensure that your child is able to go to the toilet unaided.

Allow your child to use scissors and develop their skills.

Allow your child to run, hop, skip, jump and find different ways of travelling.

Play games such as follow the leader and change actions to develop motor skills and coordination.

Discuss changes to their bodies after exercise; heart beating faster, feeling hot etc.



Communication and Language

Literacy

Talk to your child and encourage them to listen and take turns in a conversation.

Play word games such as 'I Spy...'

Encourage your child to sing/say songs and rhymes and tell you their own stories.

Sing alphabet songs and talk about the names of letters and the sounds that we say when we see them.

Make shapes of letters out of play dough; write them in sand, write their own name in the air etc.

Ask your child about words that rhyme, e.g. house and mouse, fox, socks and box.

Allow your child to select books for themselves; ones that interest him/her. Picture books with repetitive and basic language such as those by Julia Donaldson are often very popular.

Encourage your child to 'read' what is happening in the pictures. Prompt them to tell you a sentence about what is happening.

Encourage your child to act out stories themselves or using props.

Explore the sounds we say at the beginning of familiar words, eg their own names or names of family members.



Mathematical Development

Practice counting groups of objects in pictures and stories; ask questions such as how many altogether? Which number is one more?

Count out loud with your child saying the names of numbers clearly.

Show numbers to your child, e.g. birthday cards, house numbers, till receipts.

Sing songs or rhymes with numbers in them; 10 in the Bed, 5 Little Ducks, 10 Fat Sausages etc.

Read stories with numbers in them, e.g. The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Use mathematical language; add, take away, number names.

Point to and say numbers around the house.

Encourage children to identify shapes around them; do a circle spotting hunt, cut sandwiches (rectangle - triangle), find 3D shapes etc.

Apply mathematics to real life; shape, money, amounts of objects, cup full / empty, heavy, etc.



Understanding the World

Talk to your child about special times; birthdays, holidays and other key events in their lives and the lives of others they know.

Talk about their surroundings; particularly in the outdoor area, what they see, hear, feel and smell.

Encourage them to feel different textured objects and describe them; rough, smooth, soft etc.



Creative Development

Allow your child to listen to and sing songs and rhymes and make up their own.

Join in role play with your child.

Explore different crafts, messy play, paint, pencils, crayons, dough, cooking.

Using scissors and glue; encourage cutting and sticking activities.

Dance to songs and do actions, e.g. *Wheels on the Bus*, *wind the bobbin up*, *Miss Polly had a dolly*.



Above all have fun with your child as they grow and develop over the next few weeks.
Enjoy the experiences you share and try to make any learning experiences fun!