

How to be ready for school



Are you beginning to think about your child starting school in September? Maybe you want to know a little more about what you and your child will need to do together in order to get ready for their final year of Early Years?

As a group of Early Years practitioners, who work incredibly closely together, we wanted to create a booklet to support you and your child in readiness for school. This brief guide will tell you about the skills your child will need in order to be independent and confident learners.

We hope that it helps their transition into school and gives you some idea of what to expect.

Characteristics of Effective learning



Characteristics of Effective Learning are simply the different ways your child begins to learn. These are the elements that we base all our learning on in school

Playing and exploring-Finding out and exploring, playing with what they know, being willing to 'have a go'

Active Learning-Being involved and concentrating, keeping trying, enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and thinking critically- Having their own ideas, making links, choosing ways to do things

Personal Social Emotional Development

- I can take turns with another person
- I can ask for help when I need it
- I can talk about myself and the things that I do and do not like
- I can talk about how I feel
- I am confident to try new things
- I can make choices in my independent play



So how can you help at home?

- Play turn taking games together
- Give your child the chance to solve a problem themselves before helping them out
- Chat! If you have been out for the day talk about what they did or did not like. Sitting at the table to eat is a really good opportunity to do this
- If your child finds making choices on their own difficult, let them choose between just two activities in order to help them.

Physical Development

- I can use the toilet independently
- I can dress and undress with a little help
- I can walk, run, hop and climb with control
- I can use a knife and fork to feed myself
- I can begin to use scissors
- I can put my shoes and coat on myself



So how can you help at home?

- Try to ensure your child is out of nappies
- Use public toilets when out and about
- Make sure a knife and fork is used at mealtimes and that your child has had a go at cutting up their food.
- Sit at the dinner table to model using a knife and fork
- Thread beads onto a string, use pegs on a washing line, use play dough to pinch and squash (we have included a play dough recipe)
- Begin to explore mark making with chalk, paint or pens-however they want to

Playdough Recipe



Ingredients:

1/2 cup of salt
1 cup of water
2 tablespoons of cream of tartar
1 cup of flour
1 tablespoon of oil
Food colouring

Directions:

Mix the flour, salt, cream of tartar and oil in a pan.

Mix the water with the food colouring.

Add the water/colour-mix to the other ingredients and stir well.

Cook on medium heat for 4-5 minutes, while constantly stirring.

When the mixture becomes "doughy", remove from heat and start kneading (the dough will be hot, so mind your hands).

When desired texture is achieved, the playdough is finished, enjoy!

Communication and Language

- I can wait for my turn to speak
- I can listen to and follow simple instructions
- I can make eye contact with the person who is talking
- I can listen to stories



So how can you help at home?

- Make sure your child understands that they must wait until you have finished talking to others
- Play Simon says and instruction games
- Always look at your child when talking-avoid using mobile phones when chatting
- Ensure that stories are part of your bedtime routine.

We hope that these ideas help you to understand the skills that will really help your child to have an amazing start to their school life. By getting your little one ready for school you will ensure that their path to learning is a smooth one and that they are filled with the knowledge and ability to have a go at just about anything with confidence.

We look forward to seeing you at school very soon!

