



# School Readiness

## Communication

Being able to talk to adults and other children in school is vital for every child as they settle into school. Your child will want to talk to their friends as they play, to explain their ideas and create storylines. They will also need to be able to ask for help if they feel they need it. At home, **encourage your child to talk clearly and confidently about the world around them**, especially when exploring new situations. **Reading books together** is a great way to explore these skills as well as asking questions about their day. Also try to ensure your child starts to **actively listen** by looking at the speaker and engaging in conversation.

## Scissors and Pencils

Using pencils and scissors can be tricky for little hands and it often requires lots of practice to become accurate. In school we will do lots of activities to strengthen large and small motor movements but there are lots of fun things you can do to help too. **Why not play games such as Operation or Buckaroo? Or try threading games, using tweezers, playing with dough or using pegs!**

## Eating

At school, children will be eating lunch with their friends and will be supervised by adults. Your child will hopefully be having school dinners and so **practicing with a knife and fork at home whilst sitting at a table is a great skill to develop. You could try cutting dough with a knife and fork to save the mess... just remember not to eat it! It would also be helpful for your child to practice opening packets and carrying things as these are all skill which will be needed at lunchtimes.** Please don't worry if you feel your child is a 'fussy eater'. Lunchtimes are very low pressure at school and our menus have plenty of choice.

## Numbers and Counting

Being able to count is a fundamental skill. **Sing counting rhymes together. Develop a love of numbers by counting objects and actions such as chairs at the table, cars, jumps and steps.**

It is great if they can, but we don't expect children to know all their numbers or be able to write them when they join us!

## Toileting

**At school it will be very helpful if your child is able to manage their own toileting and personal hygiene or is well on the way to independence with this.** We will be there to support any child who needs help and plans are in place for any accidents which may happen. **Washing hands properly is also an important skill your child will need to practice.**

## Reading and Writing

**Share book with your child every day. Encourage a love of stories and show them how to look after books. Ask questions about the stories you read, talk about what is familiar in a story and say any repeated phrases together. Have fun making silly faces, voices and anything else which excites your child when reading. Name objects that start with the same letter as the word you are looking at. Sound out words and see if your child knows what the word is, eg: h-a-t ...hat**

We are not expecting all children to be able to read or write letters accurately when they join us, though, it is great if they can!

## Being Independent

At school, your child will be encouraged to have a go at a lot of things for themselves – especially in terms of organizing their own things! Help your child to remember what their belongings look like and get them to have a go at being responsible for carrying them to school!

**It is always helpful to name all belongings so that they can be returned if they do get lost!**

## Dressing and Undressing

At school, we will often be putting on and taking off coats, waterproofs, wellies, hats and gloves amongst other things. Zips, buttons, Velcro, socks, tights, getting clothes the right way round can always be tricky for children. **Praise your child at home when they have a go! Help them to become more independent with getting ready – celebrate the small wins, it may take time!**

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## Positive Attitudes Towards Learning and Others

Your child will interact with lots of children and adults within our school family and in many different situations. We will do lots of work on sharing, empathy, cooperation, listening and taking turns. All children and adults are expected to show respect to one another as well as their learning environment. **You can help your child have similar expectations at home by using stories and television programs to think about what school life will be like.**

## Separating From Adults

Settling into the school environment can be tricky for some children and they may feel unhappy when you drop them off. **You can prepare for this by talking about school and reassuring them that you will be back soon to pick them up and by keeping drop off times brief. You can also use stories as a chance to explore similar feelings.**

## Expectations of School

We expect all parents to be supportive of school. Every decision we make as a school has pupils interests at the heart but will often take other factors into account. If there is something you wish to discuss, you will always be welcome to speak with us in an open and fair way. We do not want parents to feel unhappy or worry about things when a quick conversation could settle any concerns. We will always take parents' thoughts and opinions on board but cannot always guarantee to meet every request.

## Positive Attitude

Above all, we want your child to have a positive experience of school and always approach new challenges with an open mind. Please don't use phrases like, 'I found school hard...' or 'I wasn't good at ... at school.' **We want all children to believe that they can overcome any challenge – even if they don't succeed first time.** There are many ways we support children to improve, if there are any concerns, please let us know and we can work together to find a solution.