

## Getting ready to start school;

Please see below some useful tips for getting ready for school;

- Try to arrange play dates with other children starting at the same school. This gives your little one the chance to develop their social skills – and will give them the confidence that they will have a friend to talk to when they start school.
- Let your child practise drawing with a range of different materials, such as pencils, crayons and pens, to help develop their fine motor skills.
- Encourage your little one to dress and undress themselves, and use the toilet independently.
- Encourage your little one to have conversations with you – ask them questions, listen to their answers, and encourage them to talk about what they think and feel so they can express themselves with new friends and teachers.
- Read with your child as often as possible. If your little one has some reading skills already, that's great! But if not, don't worry – they will be taught how to read at school. Just enjoying books with you develops early literacy skills and helps encourage a love of reading. When reading with your little one, talk to them about the story, point out new words, and ask questions – this will help with their comprehension, vocabulary and language skills.
- Help your child develop a basic awareness of numbers by helping out around the house – they could set the table and count the plates, match socks from the washing line, or measure the ingredients for some baking.
- Learn to count up to 10 and then to 20 and begin to recognise some numbers
- Distinguish between sounds in a word by breaking it down into syllables for example elephant would be said el---e --- phant.
- Share toys and take turns
- Match and sort objects by colour or shape or simple attributes (clothes, things I cook with)
- Make a simple repeating pattern for example red, blue, red blue or car, train, car, train
- Name and recognise the common colours and basic shapes- circle, square, triangle and rectangle
- Play games with your little one – simple board games (like snakes and ladders) and card games (like snap and go fish) are great for practising turn-taking, sharing, waiting and learning to cope with not winning!
- Recognise their own name and if possible make a good attempt at writing it
- Put on and take off their coat and do up and undo buttons and zips
- Know their class teacher's name and the class they are in

