

Help your child before starting school

Encourage your child to:

- Speak clearly and ask for what is needed, using 'please' and 'thank you'
- Go to the toilet alone and flush the toilet
- Know their own name and address
- Expect to clear up toys after use
- Share things and take turns
- Use a knife, fork and drinking straw
- Be away from parents in the care of others for a few hours
- Answer questions with words rather than shrugs and nods
- Do up and undo any fastenings on clothes (buttons etc.)
- Sit and listen to a story
- Handle and enjoy books
- Hold a pencil and crayons
- Understand the use of everyday objects – handles, latches etc.
- Make their wants known clearly
- Teaching your child at home
- Encourage your children to ask questions.
- Show your child the importance of reading. If children see their parents reading for pleasure and information – books, newspapers, manuals etc. – they will accept reading as a natural and important part of life.
- Read regularly to your child, and discuss the story and pictures.
- Talk to your child whilst things are happening.
- Encourage your child to know the names of lots of everyday items.