

Using a knife, fork and spoon.



Getting dressed and undressed.



Getting your child ready to start at Burnley Brow Community School

Parents often ask us how they can help their child get ready for school. We have written this simple guide to help you.

Going to the toilet independently.



Being familiar with books and sharing them.



We want you and your child to feel happy and confident when you join our school and there are a few key skills to concentrate on which will help your child to settle in. Read through this leaflet with your child and practise anything they do not feel confident about.

If you have any concerns about anything in this leaflet or any other worries about your child starting school, please let us know. We are here to help.



Getting dressed and undressed.

Your child will need to take off their coat, shoes and uniform and put them back on during the school day. Help them to do this as easily as possible by choosing clothing with zips and big buttons and shoes with Velcro which they can unfasten and fasten easily. Children often enjoy dressing up in their uniform before they start at school, so you could have practice sessions at home before they start school. It will help them become more confident with changing their clothes at school.

Adam and Lucy are going to play outside. Adam can put his shoes on so quickly and easily as they have Velcro fastenings. Lucy's coat has a zip with a big toggle, so she has no problems zipping up her coat.

Going to the toilet independently.

We encourage independence in using the toilet in Reception so children usually go to the toilet by themselves. However, an adult is always available if they need help. Our children need to be able to use toilet paper and flush when they have finished. They also need to wash and dry their own hands using warm water and soap. If your child does not usually go to the toilet by themselves, help them practise before they start school. Our toilets are very easy for small children to use as they are designed with them in mind.

Lucy has been to the toilet. She found it very easy as everything was just the right height for her. She always remembers to wash her hands before she goes back to her class.



Using a knife, fork and spoon.

Your child will be eating a variety of food at school. We encourage independence and good table manners when they are eating, so your child will be using knives, forks and spoons. We make this as easy as possible as everything is shaped and sized for small children. It will help your child if you make sure they use cutlery as much as possible before they start school, and encourage good table manners at meal times.

Adam is having his lunch. He has practised using a knife and fork so that he is able to eat his lunch independently.

Recognising their name and being able to write it using a pencil.

Please don't worry if your child doesn't recognise letters. We will teach them how to do this in school. However, it will help your child settle in and feel more confident if they are able to recognise their own name, for example when they see it written on a coat peg, or items of clothing and belongings. They will also label pieces of work that they do in class, so it is helpful if they are able to write their own name. Help them practise this before they come to school by showing them what their name looks like, and by helping them to write it. This will also get them used to using a pencil safely and correctly.

Adam is writing his name. He loves writing it big and clearly. He also knows how to hold his pencil correctly which makes it easier to write.



Being familiar with books and sharing them.

We will be reading to the children, but they will also be using books by themselves. Show your child how to handle books so they know to go through them page by page, and handle the paper with care. Children love being read to, and we know that sharing books with your children helps them to develop reading skills more quickly, so try to read regularly with your child.

Lucy is looking at a book with her dad. They both love their bedtime reading sessions. Lucy has started to recognise letters and she is looking forward to reading books to her dad one day.



Counting objects and recognising numbers to 10 and above.

Many of our lessons involve matching and counting. It will help your child if they know what small numbers look like written down and they are able to do basic counting. Practice really helps children become confident with counting, so if your child needs to develop their counting skills, build it into everyday activities. For example, when they are getting dressed, ask: "How many hands have you got? How many fingers have you got?"

Lucy and Adam are playing a number game together. Lucy has spotted the number 4 and she has asked Adam to find four red counters. Adam has found three. How many more does he need?



Burnley Brow Community School

Victoria Street, Chadderton, Oldham, OL9 0BY

Phone: 0161 770 3137

E-mail: You can contact us on:
info@burnleybrow.oldham.sch.uk

Website: www.school.burnleybrow.co.uk

