

# Helping to Get Your Child Reception Ready

Your child will soon be joining our school. We know you will want to get their time in reception off to the best start possible, so there are some key skills to think about and practise before then.



If your child is not yet confident with anything we mention in this leaflet, have lots of practise.

## Enjoying books and reading

Books and a love of reading are a very important part of your child's learning. Introduce your child to books as soon as possible so that they know how to handle them and get used to listening to stories. So, for example, ask them about what they can see in the pictures. When your child is settled into school they can choose a picture book to bring home for the week. When you read to your child, talk about the book as you go along. When they know enough sounds, they will bring home a reading book that they can read to you! We ask that you listen to them read and make a note in the reading record. It only takes a few minutes each day but is one of the most important things you can do to support your child's education.

*Frankie, Saba and Evie love reading together.*

*Saba has got the book she is reading at home. She loves looking at the pictures.*



## Being able to hold pencils

Your child will be drawing and colouring when they start reception, so it helps if they already know how to hold a pencil properly to draw and make marks on paper. Show them how to hold a pencil and draw lines and shapes on any available paper. Then let them try. Help them hold the pencil correctly if they struggle at first. Then let them have a go on their own so they can see how easy it is once the pencil is held in the correct way. To help them gain strength to hold a pencil correctly, your child can do lots of fine motor activities such as playing with playdough, threading beads and building with Lego.

*Evie enjoys practising writing letters. She wants to write the whole alphabet.*



If you feel that they will struggle with anything or need extra support, let us know and we will always be there to help your child.

## Following simple instructions

Your child's teacher will be giving instructions to your child both one-to-one and to the whole class. It is very important that your child can listen to and follow instructions. This is a skill which most children need help with, so practise at home by giving them little jobs to do, which involve a couple of simple steps.

*The teacher has asked Frankie to help tidy up. She has asked him to collect the brushes, wash them and put them away. Frankie listened carefully and knows what to do.*



## Recognising their own name

Your child is not expected to recognise letters and numbers when they start school, but it will help them if they can recognise their own name. They will see it written on their uniform, coat, bag and belongings, so recognising their own name will help them to identify their own things. They will also write their name on any work they do. You can help them by practising writing their name with them before they start school. Start by getting them to trace over their name, and place name labels around your home so they can find and recognise them. Only use a capital letter for the first letter in their name. The other letters should be in lowercase.

*Frankie and Evie can recognise their names. They found their names in the bucket when they came into school this morning.*



# Using the toilet and practising self-care

Your child is expected to do things such as wipe their own nose if they have a cold and go to the toilet by themselves. They should be able to wipe and flush after they have been to the toilet and be able to wash their hands with soap and water. If your child is not yet confident in going to the toilet independently, encourage them to practise in the months before they start school. It is a good idea to provide your child with a packet of tissues if they have a cold so they can wipe their own nose. We are happy to help any child that needs it, and we will always be supportive if a child has a toilet accident.

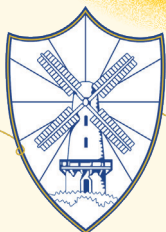
***Frankie practised going to the toilet by himself lots before he started school. Now he feels very confident and he knows exactly what to do.***



## Getting dressed and undressed

During the school day, your child will be taking off their coat, jumper and in the winter their scarf, hat and gloves. They also need to use zips by themselves. During creative sessions, they will also wear an apron. Your child will find it much easier to do this independently if their clothes are easy for them to take off and put on. We recommend buying clothes with big buttons, Velcro and easy zips. Children often enjoy dressing-up games, so encourage them to practise 'getting ready' for school at home in the weeks before they start school. Encourage them to pull sleeves back the right way after taking jumpers/cardigans/coats off so they are easy to put back on.

***Frankie and Saba are changing back into their uniforms after PE. Their clothes are nice and easy to get into and they both practised putting their uniforms on before they started school.***



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