



Recognising their own name

Writing their name with a capital and lower-case letters



Helping to get your child Reception Ready

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



Taking shoes off and putting them on

Going to the toilet on their own



We want you and your child to feel happy and confident when you join our school. 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 worries about anything in this leaflet or any other worries about your child starting school, please let us know.



Recognising their own name

We will teach your child how to recognise numbers and letters, but it will help your child if they are able to recognise their own name, for example when they see it written on a coat peg or on items of clothing. Help them practise this before they come to school by showing them what their name looks like, and by helping them write it. You could try writing their name on items at home, and asking them to see how many times they can find and read their name.

Ama is excited about recognising her name above her coat peg and straightaway hangs her coat up.

Writing their name with a capital and lower-case letters

We will teach your child to write their name, but it is helpful if they can already write their name before they start school. You could ask your child to practise writing their name in some of their favourite books at home.



John is writing out his name in his first school exercise book. He loves being able to put his name on his work.



Going to the toilet on their own

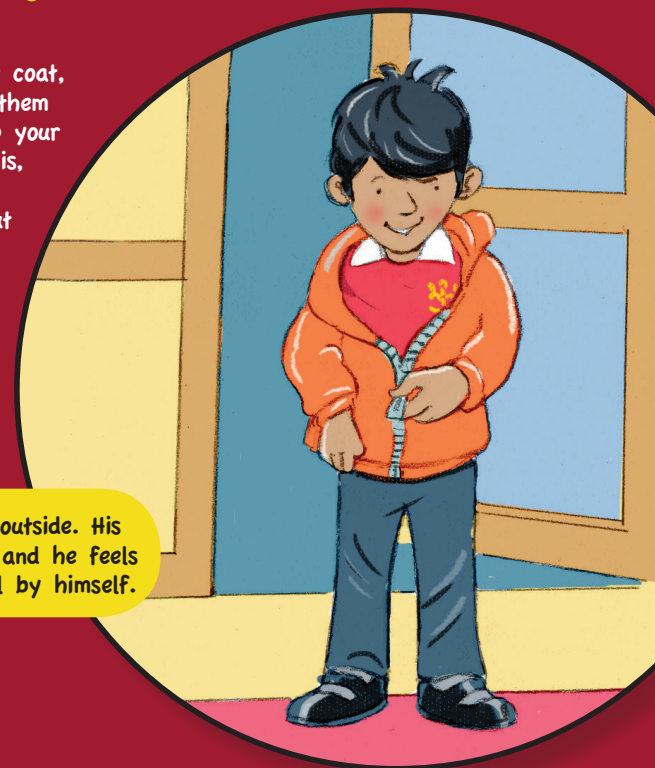
Children in reception are encouraged to go to the toilets independently, although an adult is always available if they need help. Our children need to be able to wipe themselves and flush when they have finished. They also need to wash and dry their own hands. If your child does not usually go to the 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.

Sam has used the toilet all by himself. It was so easy as everything was just the right height for him. He knows that if he needs help, he can ask his teacher.

Fastening and unfastening coats, jackets and cardigans

Your child will need to take their coat, jacket and cardigan off and put them on during the school day. To help your child feel more confident doing this, make sure that their clothes are easy for them to take off and put on. So think about clothes with easy fastenings or big buttons. You can also have practice sessions before they start school. We know that lots of children really enjoy trying on their uniforms before they start school.

John is getting ready to play outside. His jacket is really easy to put on and he feels very grown-up getting ready all by himself.





Taking shoes off and putting them on

Children take their shoes off and put them on throughout the school day. We recommend that you think about shoes with easy fastenings such as Velcro as they are quick and easy for children to use. But if your child is already learning how to tie laces in their shoes, we are happy to help them. You can also help your child by getting them to practise taking their shoes off and putting them on at home.

Ama has just come in from playing outside. She has taken off her lovely green wellies and is now putting her shoes on to go to her next class. She finds it really easy to fasten her shoes with the Velcro fastening and she learnt which shoes goes on which foot by practising at home.

Using cutlery

At meal times children will be using cutlery to eat their food. We also encourage good table manners. Adults will always be available to help the children if they need it, but it will help your child to feel more confident at meal times if they can use a knife and fork independently. Help your child practise using cutlery correctly at home, and encourage good manners.

Sam is eating his lunch and using his knife and fork to cut up his food. He has been practising this at home and is really proud to show he can do this on his own now.



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