



Recognising and writing their own name



Basic counting and recognising shapes



Priory Fields School

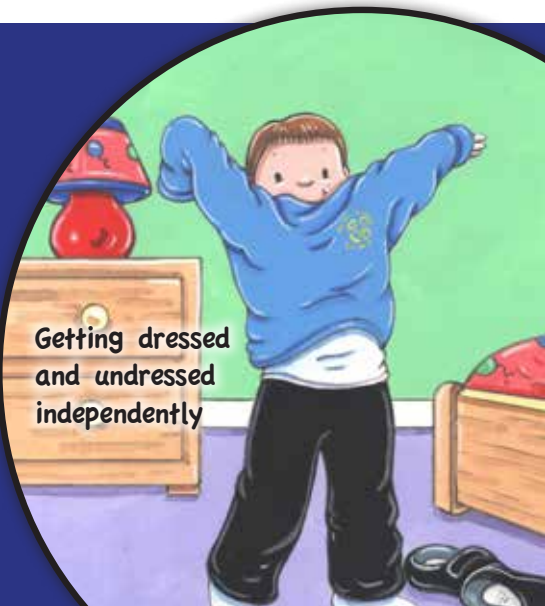
Everyone Achieving Together

Helping to get your child Reception Ready

Starting school is a change in a young child's life, and a big adjustment for parents too! Being well prepared will help to make it a positive and exciting experience for them, and for you.



Being able to use pencils and scissors correctly



Getting dressed and undressed independently

There are a few key areas to concentrate on which will help your child to settle in. Please look through this leaflet with your child to see if there is anything they do not feel confident about. We have given you some ideas to help.



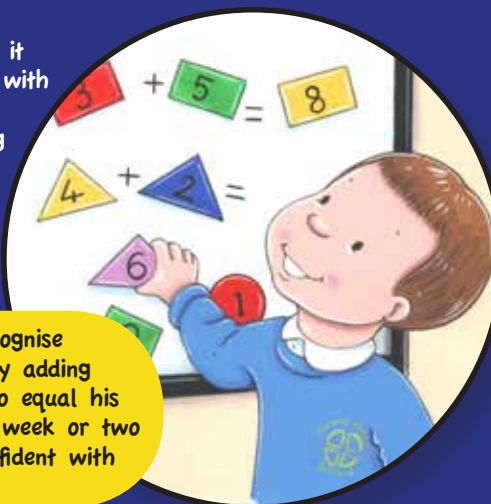
Recognising and writing their own name

We will be teaching the alphabet and the sounds each letter makes, but it will help your child if they are able to recognise their own name. For example, when they see their name written on a coat peg or on their belongings, they will then be able to find their own things. Your child 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 write it.

Ruby is writing her name. She loves putting her name on her work. And now she can find her own things when they have her name on.

Basic counting and recognising shapes

We will teach your child about counting and shapes, but it can give them a good start if they are already familiar with numbers to 10 and basic shapes. A fun game that helps children recognise shapes and basic numbers and counting can be to combine them. Cut out some squares, triangles and rectangles and put different numbers on them. Then encourage your child to say the number and the name of the shape. Then try basic counting, and help them to add numbers together.



Harry is learning about shapes and he can recognise squares and triangles. He is practising counting by adding his number 3 rectangle to his number 5 rectangle to equal his number 8 rectangle. Just a few minutes a day for a week or two before he starts school means that Harry feels confident with his shapes and numbers.

If you still have any worries about your child starting school, please let us know. We are here to help.



Being able to use pencils and scissors correctly

Children will be drawing and writing when they start school, so it helps if they already know how to hold a pencil properly. Show them how to hold a pencil and practise drawing lines and shapes with them. Children love craft work and often this will involve cutting with scissors. We always use safe scissors, but children sometimes struggle if they have not used them before. Again, help them to learn how to hold and use scissors safely and always supervise them carefully whilst they practise.

Sasha has lots of brightly coloured paper and she is cutting out different shapes. She plans to make a pretty picture that she will take home to show her grown-ups.

Getting dressed and undressed independently

Whenever possible, buy clothes that are easy to put on. Struggling with fiddly buttons can cause frustration when children need to go to the toilet or change for PE, etc. 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 and shoes with easy fastenings like Velcro. Skirts with elasticated waists are also great for easy changing. Encourage your child with practice sessions before they start school.



Harry is so excited about starting school that he often tries on his school uniform in the holidays. He has practised so much, he can now get ready all by himself!



Going to the toilet independently

An adult is always available if children need help, but we encourage the children to go to the toilet independently in Reception. Teach your child how to use the toilet and to clean themselves afterwards. Explain the importance of flushing to leave the toilet clean for the next child to use. Encourage them to wash their hands thoroughly with soap before drying them. Our toilets are very easy for small children to use as they are designed with them in mind.

Harry has used the toilet all by himself and is now washing his hands with the liquid soap before he dries them. 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.

Using tissues to wipe and blow their nose

Children often have colds in their early school years. Please show them how to wipe and blow their nose whenever they have a runny nose. This helps stop the spread of germs and will help them breathe more easily and feel more comfortable.

Ruby is very good at blowing her nose and using a tissue so that she can breathe better.



"Attending school every day helps your child to settle and learn."

Priory Fields School
Astor Avenue
Dover
Kent
CT17 0FS

Phone: 01304 211543
Headteacher: headteacher@prioryfields.kent.sch.uk
Office: admin@prioryfields.kent.sch.uk
<http://www.prioryfields.kent.sch.uk>