

Recognising and
writing their
own name



Taking shoes
on and off



Helping your child to get Reception Ready

Parents often ask us what they can do to help their child get ready for starting school. To help we have written this guide.

Getting dressed
and undressed
independently



Being familiar with books



We want you and your child to feel happy and confident when you join us. We have identified the main skills to concentrate on which will help your child settle in when they start school. Read through this leaflet with your child, and practise anything that they are not sure about.

If you have any worries about anything, please let us know and we will help.



Getting used to traditional rhymes and stories

We often use traditional stories and rhymes in the classroom. Children get much more enjoyment from these stories and rhymes if they are familiar with them. Help your child by reading stories and singing rhymes with them. It also helps your child when they start to learn to read if they have been read to regularly.

Kadira's mum is reading a story to her in bed. Kadira knows the story well and enjoys listening to it and looking at the book every bedtime.



Being familiar with books

We read to the children when they start school, and they will also be handling and using books. It helps your child to settle into classroom activities if they feel confident handling books. Read to your child regularly and talk to them about stories and pictures. Also, provide them with books which they can look at and explore by themselves.

Thomas has a favourite book and he likes to look at the pictures in it every day. He can't wait to tell his teacher about it.



Recognising and writing their own name

Don't worry if your child cannot read or understand the alphabet when they start school. We will teach them how to recognise letters and numbers. But, it is helpful if your child can recognise their own name when they see it written. This means that they will be able to identify their own coat peg, belongings etc. They will also be labelling any work they do in class, so it is useful if they can write their own name. Help them to practise these skills at home by getting them to find their own name and label their belongings.

Isabelle is writing her name. She is enjoying writing it really 'BIG' and filling up the page.



Going to the toilet independently

We encourage children to use the toilet on their own. This means that they will be responsible for flushing the toilet, wiping when they have finished, and washing and drying their hands. We make sure that our toilets are designed so that small children find them easy to use. You can help them by encouraging them to practise at home.

Kadira feels grown-up using the toilet by herself. Everything is just the right size for her. She knows that if she has an accident she can tell her teacher and it will all be OK.





Getting dressed and undressed independently

Your child will need to get their PE kit on and off by themselves. You can help your child by dressing them in clothes that are easy for them to put on and take off. Clothes which have big buttons or easy fastenings are a good idea. Help your child to feel confident by getting them to practise putting their uniform on before they start school.

Isabelle is getting ready for PE. She has been practising at home and she knows that her clothes are easy to take on and off.



Taking shoes on and off

Children have to take their shoes on and off throughout the school day. Most children struggle with laces when they start school, so think about the type of shoes that you buy for them. Shoes with Velcro fastenings are quick and simple to use. Also, get your child to practise taking their shoes off and on before they start school.

Thomas loves his new school shoes. He can get them off and on really quickly and doesn't need any help from a grown-up.



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