



Aria's confidence is growing every day at Oakview Primary School

Lauren lives in Cheshunt with her partner, Davide, and their children, Aria, aged 5, Thea, 2, and Mia, aged 8 months

Making friends

Aria has had a great start to life at Oakview Primary School: "She settled in really well. She's very happy and comfortable there and likes going in to play with her friends. She seems to enjoy it, and she's really confident there now," she says.

Aria was quite shy when she first started, but Lauren has seen a real change in her confidence: "She was very shy and reserved when she first started, but her confidence has grown massively, and she's much more sociable now," she explains.

"It's a really supportive and welcoming environment for the children, which I think makes such a difference when they're starting out," she adds.

Enjoying the school day

Aria enjoys learning at school, but she especially likes lessons where she can be active and involved: "She really likes going in and playing with her friends and prefers the more interactive lessons where she's doing things. Her favourite subject is probably PE – she finds it really fun. She's also enjoying phonics at the moment," Lauren explains.

"I think they get the balance right between learning and creativity, which keeps them interested and engaged," she adds.

A big step

Starting school is a big step, especially with your first child, but Aria has adapted well: "Because she's my eldest, I didn't really know what to expect. They go from nursery, where it's a lot of play, straight into things like phonics, but she seems to be doing really well. I've noticed improvements in both her confidence and her learning," says Lauren.

"It's such a big step with your first child, so it's been really reassuring seeing how happy she is going in each day," she adds.

Caring and dedicated staff

Lauren says the staff have played a big role in helping Aria settle in: "The teachers are supportive and

approachable, and they genuinely care about the children's progress. I know if Aria had any worries, she'd feel comfortable asking for help," she says.

"They're really caring and dedicated, and you can tell they're genuinely invested in each child and how they're getting on, not just academically but in themselves as well," Lauren adds.

Easy communication

Lauren says it's easy to stay in touch with the school and speak to staff when needed: "If I need to speak to her class teacher, I can either speak to her at the beginning or the end of the day, and she always makes time to talk. They also have an app that we can send messages on, which is really helpful," she says.

Overall, she feels well informed and involved in Aria's learning: "The communication has been really clear and consistent. I always feel well informed and involved in what she's doing," Lauren says.

Feeling safe and valued

For Lauren, the most important thing is how Aria feels at school: "She feels safe, valued and encouraged to do her best," she says.

She says the school made them feel welcome right from the very beginning: "It's been really supportive and welcoming, which has made a big difference."

School activities

Aria is already looking forward to getting involved in more school activities: "She'll be joining breakfast club and after-school club when I go back to work, and she's really looking forward to it. They offer quite a range of activities which really helps build their confidence and gives them lots to look forward to," Lauren says.

"I'd definitely recommend the school to other parents who want a positive and nurturing place for their child to learn and grow," she adds.

Aria says: "I love playing in the garden with my friends and playing on the scooters."