



Parents' Handbook: Preparing your young child for school

PREPARING YOUR YOUNG CHILD FOR SCHOOL

Many parents want to know how they can prepare their child for full time school and there is much that you can do to help.

Talk and read to your child and teach him/her nursery rhymes. Don't be afraid to correct mispronunciation and grammatical errors in their speech; this is vital!

Allow time for indoor and outdoor play: children need to be able to share and co-operate with others, they must also learn to concentrate and play alone.

Don't ban television or tablets; we are educating children to live in the real world. Do, however, limit television viewing to appropriate programmes at sensible times. Please ensure that tablets or computers are only used for appropriate lengths of time and content; ensure that you have adequately protected your child online.

Children who are self-sufficient when they join us have a head start. Teach your child to use a knife and fork, dress him/herself and use a handkerchief.

Enforce regular, early bedtimes. The Early Years day is long and tiring, if bedtimes are established, life will be easier as your child progresses through the school. Children who have to be woken in the morning usually arrive at school fractious and uncooperative; do try to have a calm start to the day.

Make sure that when you say 'No' you mean it. Children know when we are half hearted and are experts at taking advantage.

They also know when we are concerned and react accordingly so try not to worry about leaving them with us.

The following are answers to some of the questions asked of our Early Years teachers by prospective parents.

Children are expected:

- to use the lavatory independently. Accidents however, do happen, especially when a small child is engrossed in an activity: it is therefore advisable to have spare underwear and socks in their P.E. bag. (Please note that children who are not trained will be asked to leave until they are independent.)
- to use a knife and fork appropriately at lunchtime.
- to be polite and always show respect for all adults and other pupils (not to interrupt!)
- to dress/undress themselves, although in Kindergarten help may be given with fastenings.
- to take care with books and equipment and tidy up before moving to the next activity.
- to 'listen' and join in a two-way conversation.

As previously mentioned, if you have any concerns come and talk to us. We want the very best for your child and you can help us to achieve it.

If your child is joining Early Years we will usually undertake a home or current nursery visit, wherever possible. We use this to observe your child, learn about the things that interest them, talk to you or their nursery key worker and to get to know them so as to make their transition to school really smooth.