



How can I support my child starting Reception?



The most useful thing you can do to get your child ready for school is to make sure they are comfortable doing simple tasks by themselves. This includes:



- **Going to the toilet** by themselves, washing and drying their hands independently. Make sure your child is happy going to the toilet on their own, their uniform is easy to pull down and up (or up and down), and they feel confident enough to put their hand up and ask to go.



- **Getting dressed and undressed** independently. Help your child by dressing them in clothing that is easy to manage (elasticated waists, Velcro fastenings). **Putting on shoes:** tie-up shoes might be a bit difficult. Go for shoes with Velcro fasteners if possible.



- **Eating with others and using cutlery.** This includes using a knife and fork, opening their lunchbox and being able to open everything in the lunchbox – some yoghurt tubes, lids and drink cartons can be tricky.



- **Solving simple problems.** Encourage your child to resolve problems by talking when they don't understand or when something isn't going well. It is important that they also learn when to ask an adult for help.



Make a start on early Literacy and Numeracy skills:



Phonics: Sing the alphabet song check You-tube which will have a range of alphabet songs with visuals, have a look on YouTube at the Jolly Phonics songs for Phase 2 phonics, can you find things in your house starting with different sounds? For example: where is the a,a,a,a,a **apple**, focus on the sounds that the letters make NOT the names of the letters, sing Nursery rhymes with your child the rhyme and repetition will really help with Phonics skills and language development. Sound talk words with your child like a robot: for example: ask your child to get their **b-a-g bag**. **Use the following websites to support Phonics learning:**



www.phonicsbloom.com

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

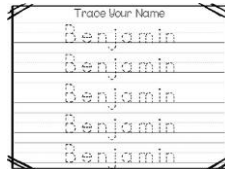


Look at the **DFE – Learning to Blend lessons on you-Tube**, there are many to choose from and they support the Letters and Sounds Phonics program that we use in school.





- **Recognising their name:** knowing what their name looks like will help your child find their own peg, their school bag, their tray and their name at snack time. You can practise writing their name too, remembering a capital letter at the beginning and the rest being lowercase letters



- **Share stories.** Reading to your child improves their vocabulary, listening and attention skills and acting out stories is a great way to practise communication. Seeing you enjoy stories also primes your child to be an enthusiastic reader. You can find storytelling videos on the Oxford Owl You Tube channel and free eBooks in the Oxford Owl eBook library:



https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/home/reading-site/find-a-book/library-page?view=image&query=&type=book&age_group=&level=&level_select=&book_type=&series=#0



<https://www.freechildrenstories.com/age-3-5>
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/>

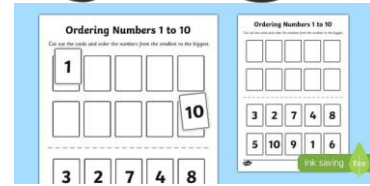
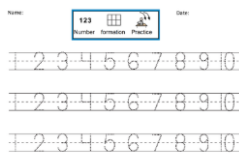


- **Practising fine motor skills.** Developing hand strength, fine motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination all helps prepare your child for writing. Making Lego models, using playdough, using scissors, and threading beads or pasta onto string are fun ways to develop hand strength. Drawing and colouring activities are good for introducing children to mark-making tools.



- **Introduce your child to numbers.** Why not go on a number hunt around your local area and take pictures of any numbers you find? You could also share counting songs on You Tube together or count objects as you set the table for dinner. Can your child get five forks or three cups out? Can they share them between members of the family? You can also practise recognising, writing and ordering numbers to 10 or 20.





Web links to support Maths learning

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/topics/numeracy>

<https://themumeducates.com/top-10-free-numeracy-games-for-reception-age-kids/>

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/counting_games.html

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=counting+songs (counting songs)

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=shapes+songs+for+children (shapes songs)



Sharing and taking turns

If your child has brothers or sisters, or they've been to nursery or pre-school, they'll be used to this already. But it's always good to check they've understood that sharing is a two-way process! Practise turn taking with your child by playing board games, lotto games etc where your child will have to wait for their turn and will begin to understand that others need a turn.



Listening and sitting still

In Reception class, at certain times your child will be expected to sit still and listen to basic instructions from their teacher. You can help with this at home by sitting together doing a jigsaw, playing a board game colouring or looking at books.



Useful websites to support learning over the Summer holidays

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

<https://www.discoveryeducation.co.uk/what-we-offer/discovery-education-esspresso>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/kids-activities/fun-maths-games-and-activities/>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>



Have a look at these websites for more ideas on how to your child prepare for starting school:

BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/starting-primary-school/1>

BBC Tiny Happy Minds <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/activities/zjh8hbk>

Government Hungry Little Minds <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

