



These are some suggestions to help prepare your child for school in September.

1. Encourage Independence

It is important that your child can look after themselves as independently as possible. Encourage your child to dress on their own – tackling buttons, zips and taking off and putting on jackets. Turning jumpers outside in! They should be learning to eat using a knife, fork and spoon independently. They should be able to go to the toilet independently.

2. Develop speaking and listening skills

There are many ways you can help your child develop speaking and listening skills which are really important in the Reception learning environment:

We always encourage the children to say 'good morning' or hello to adults in school. We always use 'please' and 'thank you';

Have conversations about lots of things with siblings and family members, taking turns to speak and **listening to others;**

Ask lots of questions about things and give your child time to ask questions and listen to answers;

Read lots of stories together, including rhyming stories. Spend time discussing characters and story plot. Re read favourite stories over and over so your child becomes familiar with the story and can retell in their own words.

3. Teach them to recognise their name

Some children will already be able to read and write simple words by the time they start Reception; others will be new learners. You can help your child recognise their name so they can find their own belongings in class. Together, explore what the letters in their name look like. If you begin to write the name please remember to use a capital letter to begin and then lower-case letters for the rest.

4. Talk enthusiastically about school

Children's thoughts about school can vary enormously. Some can hardly wait to start while some find it stressful to leave their parents for the day. This could be a greater issue in today's climate. Start helping your child look forward to school by talking enthusiastically about it.