

Ways of Preparing your Child for School

Early literacy skills

- ✓ If you choose to teach the alphabet to your child before they begin school it is important to teach the lower case alphabet.
- ✓ When teaching the alphabet it is important to teach letter sounds first.
- ✓ Children need to learn to write their name in lower case.
- ✓ Teach children to recognise their name and to identify it from other names beginning with the same letter. For example Ryan and Robin are different but have the same beginning sound.
- ✓ Allow children to play card and board games to build memory, turn taking, perseverance, and task completion skills.
- ✓ Read to children and expect them to listen until the story is finished.
- ✓ Re-read favourite stories to foster a love of reading.
- ✓ Ensure children are familiar with nursery rhymes. These are still highly relevant for early literacy development.

Early numbers skills

- ✓ Teach children to make sets of objects with amounts up to 10: "Show me three cars" "Tell me how many coins you can see." "Show me your age with the beads." "Show me four fingers."
- ✓ Learn to count to 20.
- ✓ Recognise numbers. This can be reading mail boxes, looking at registration plates or street numbers on buildings.

Early concepts

- ✓ Make children familiar with basic colours.
- ✓ Play with floor puzzles.
- ✓ Talk about and compare size, shapes and colours. This can be in the home, the car, Dad's garage or Grandma's garden.
- ✓ Make children familiar with the names of the basic shapes-circle, square, triangle and rectangle.

Fine and gross motor development

- ✓ Allow children to use scissors. This develops hand eye co-ordination, finger strength, eye tracking and concentration.
- ✓ Spend time out of doors playing games such as tag, bat and ball games, and team games to build confidence, upper and lower body strength, balance, memory, turn taking and hand eye co-ordination.
- ✓ Teach students how to hold a pencil correctly. This is important for left to right eye-tracking, hand strength, which allows for speed as well as allowing children to be able to see as they write.

Social skills

- ✓ Spend time with children of similar ages so that children are used to socialising with others. This helps them to expect differences, deal with conflict, talk confidently and share equipment and ideas.
- ✓ Teach children to dress themselves and organise themselves for the school day. This develops independence and confidence.