

Kelvindale Primary School



Getting Ready for School

Helping Your Child

There are many different ways in which you can help your child to prepare for school. Many of the suggestions in this booklet you will be familiar with. However, there may be some new ideas you can try. Encourage your child to do things independently, showing patience if they make mistakes.

Before School

Children who settle in quickly to school are those who can:

- Go to the toilet and wash their hands
- Use a knife and fork
- Dress and undress him/herself
- Do up own buttons and zips
- Change shoes
- Take off his/her coat, gloves and hat and hang them up
- Tidy and clear away his/her toys
- Use a handkerchief
- Recognise his/her own clothing and name label
- Share his/her toys and be prepared to take turns

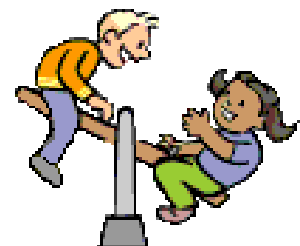


Tidy Up

Health and Well Being

Children should be active every day. Help your child to develop gross motor skills by encouraging physical activity and movement. Try some of these activities as they will support your child's learning in Physical Education (P.E.):

- A walk or run in the park
- Throwing and catching a ball
- Playing at the swing park
- Riding a bike or scooter
- Skipping
- Playing games with friends



Getting Ready for Numeracy and Mathematics

There are many opportunities for this in everyday life—in the home, park, at the shops. You can assist your child by helping to develop a simple vocabulary of number, size, shape and position using the following guidelines.

Language is very important in Maths and is developed throughout the school.

The language of Maths is also featured in many well known stories e.g. The 3 Bears, The Enormous Turnip.

Matching Games

Let your child help you lay the table, giving each person a knife, fork, spoon, etc.

Playing with dolls or teddies, let your child share his sweets or biscuits so they get the same.

Counting

Count with your child as he is playing with his toys, having a bath, going upstairs, getting dressed.

1 2 3 4 5 6

How Many?

Ask how many towels, sweets, cars, fingers.



Sing number rhymes with your child

E.g.: 10 green bottles

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I caught a fish alive.

One potato, two potato

There were 10 in the bed and the little one said "Roll over"

Five Little Ducks went swimming one day



Time Today, tomorrow, yesterday, morning, afternoon, evening

Size

Ask your child to put things in order of size. Discuss the size with your child using the words big/small, thin/thick, tall/short, narrow/wide.

Positions

Talk about before/after, in/out, up/down, over/under, first/last, back/front/side, behind/in front, next to/beside.

Make repeating patterns with coloured beads, buttons etc

1 red, 1 blue, 1 red, 1 blue

2 green, 2 yellow, 2 green, 2 yellow

Getting Ready for Literacy

Talking

Talk with your child, giving praise and encouragement whenever possible. Ask about their day and about what they have been learning. When travelling, walking, shopping, cooking and playing, talk with your child, making him/her aware of the world around him.

Listening

Encourage your child to listen when you are talking and ask if he has understood what you have said. It is important that children should be able to listen to and follow instructions when starting school.

Observation

Observation is an important skill which can be developed in young children. Encourage your child to observe street signs, place names, advertisements etc, this activity can often lead to spontaneous reading by young children.

Books

Books will play a vital role in your child's school life.

When looking at books with your child, talk about what is happening in the pictures, looking at people, animals, colours, shapes and sizes. As your child shows more interest, encourage them to tell you about it in their own words.



Helpful Hints for Looking at and Learning about Books

- Look at the cover and the title and ask your child what they think the book will be about
- Look at and talk about the illustrations (pictures)
- Discuss what is happening in the story and ask your child if they can guess what will happen next
- Ask your child if they enjoyed the story and why they liked it

Nursery Rhymes

The ability to rhyme is vitally important to reading and spelling processes. Here are some you could sing with your child;

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Humpty Dumpty | Jack and Jill |
| • Three Blind Mice | Sing a song of Sixpence |
| • Hickory Dickory Dock. | Mary had a Little Lamb |
| • The Grand Old Duke of York | Little Bo Peep |

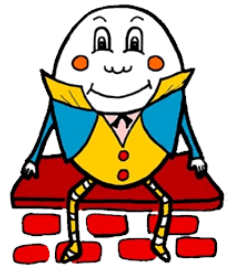
You could play a rhyming game such as,

"I hear with my little ear something that rhymes with ...man "

Please could you make sure that your child knows Humpty Dumpty before he/she comes to school in August.

Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's horses and all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again.



Sounds

Another important part of reading is learning the alphabet and sounds.

You can help by playing word games with your child such as "I spy with my little eye something beginning with....."

Your child will be given an alphabet strip home. Ask them to identify each picture, emphasising the initial sound or name. The alphabet song will be on our website.

Getting Ready for Writing

Your child's muscles are still developing at this stage and they need some help to develop the muscles for writing. This can be achieved through colouring in books, cutting out simple shapes, playing with modelling clay, playing with beads, lacing cards, building with bricks and doing jigsaws.

Many drawing and painting activities will help your child when he/she starts writing in school. Let your child have a wide variety of pencils, crayons, chalks and felt tips and a large supply of paper.

Let your child draw and scribble as much as possible. You will be surprised how quickly your child will be able to draw a recognisable picture.

Let your child hold the pencil in the hand in which he/she feels most comfortable. Do not worry if it is the left hand. Any attempts at writing should be valued and encouraged.



We do hope you find this booklet useful. We look forward to your children starting school and hope that they will be very happy, both in Primary 1 and throughout their school years.