



Getting Ready for Reception at Woburn Lower School



Your child does not need to be able to read, write or do sums before they start school. Children start school with a wide range of abilities and their teacher will be skilled at helping children progress at their own level. The most important thing is that you and your child have fun together - sharing stories, singing songs, playing games and talking about anything and everything. A child will flourish if they feel safe, can act independently and demonstrate curiosity about the world.

Soon your child will be going into our Reception class. Here are some things that you could do over the summer holidays to help with their transition into Reception. We are always here to help the children but if they could do some of these independently it would be helpful.

It would be helpful for your child to be able to:

- Put their coat on - putting their arms in their coat and trying to zip it up.
- Put gloves and hats on independently.
- Get changed - the children will be doing Physical Education (PE) and will need to get changed into their PE kit.
- Recognise their own shoes and coat.
- Recognise their name - they will have a peg, a drawer and their book bag with their name on and will need to use these at school.
- Use a knife and fork - if your child will be having school dinners they will need to use a knife and fork to eat with. The children are entitled to free school meals up to Year 2.
- Read a range of books with your children, tell stories and ask questions about how the characters are feeling and where the story is set. You do not need to worry about your child reading any of the words.
- Trying to use the toilet independently, washing hands etc.

Please remember to:

- Bring a PE kit - The kit will stay in school and will be sent home at the end of each half term. Please include blue shorts/blue tracksuit bottoms, a plain white t-shirt and plimsolls. (shorts and bottoms available from the wear2school shop in Leighton Buzzard)
- Name all of their clothes -this will help us to locate and return any belongings that may get lost.
- Send a water bottle in every day.
- Ensure they bring their reading book and reading record book to school every day.

Summer Activities

Writing

There are also lots of activities you can do with your child to encourage pre-writing skills and to build up the strength and dexterity in their hands.

For example:-

- Playing with play dough
- Help to bake
- Playing with pegs, tweezers, tongs, chopsticks
- Using scissors
- Gardening
- Drawing with sticks in sand or mud
- Drawing with their finger in flour, glitter, shaving foam etc.
- Doing large movements using chalk outside on walls or concrete.
- Painting using various sized brushes or tools.

Listening

School involves a lot of listening - so practising good listening skills before your child starts school will help them get off to a great start.

- To encourage good listening be a good listener yourself so give your child lots of opportunities to talk.
- Read stories together and then ask your child to recall what happened. Research has shown that children who are read to daily do better in all areas of learning.
- Play games that involve listening to instructions, such as Simon Says...
- Go for a listening walk with your child and see which sounds you can hear.
- Sing well known nursery rhymes and make deliberate mistakes, children love to spot mistakes and put them right.

Mathematics

On starting school your child will not be expected to be able to do addition and subtraction, but to prepare your child for learning these skills in the future there are lots of simple activities which you can do together.

These include:-

- Play spot the number. Encourage your child to point at numbers 0-9 in the environment, on doors, signs, car registrations, birthday cards, clocks etc.
- Get into the habit of counting with your child, count the stairs, how many cars they can see, how many apples you need when at the shop etc.
- Singing nursery rhymes which include numbers is really important to teach not only counting, but order and rhythm too. Songs such as '5 Little Ducks' and 'Ten in the Bed' will help.
- Playing number games together, for example 'Snakes & Ladders', and 'Dominoes'.
- Other activities which are helpful with early mathematics skills are sharing out items, ordering items by length or height, repeating patterns and measuring.

It isn't just about being able to count or recognise the number but about understanding what the numeral stands for. Looking at quantities as well, having the numeral with dots to match the quantity is important for the child to see and start to understand this.

We hope that you have found this leaflet useful and that it has given you some suggestions and put your mind at ease about the upcoming transition into reception.

From
Mrs Black and
The Early Years Team