

Preparing Your Child for School



**Blakehill
Primary School**

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Counting and Numbers

Teach your child how to count by counting objects whenever possible. How many steps? How many fish fingers? etc. Concentrate on counting to 10 initially. Your child may show an interest in what numbers look like. Develop this by looking at numbers on houses, cars, birthday cards etc.

Writing

Your child may show an interest in writing. It may appear to be just a series of squiggles and lines but this is the 'emergent stage' of writing. Show an interest in what they have written and praise their efforts. Encourage your child to hold a pencil correctly as an incorrect grip can be difficult to change later.

If you can teach your child to write their own name this will be of great benefit. Use a capital letter for the first letter and lower case letters for the rest. Use our letter formation sheet to ensure you teach your child how to form their letters correctly. Give your child 'real' reasons for writing. Ask them to help you with a shopping list, writing a birthday card or thank you letters. If your child is not interested in writing yet, encourage them to draw or colour as this will still be developing their pencil grip and control.



Encourage your child to enjoy listening to stories as this will lead to an interest in reading for themselves. Talk about the pictures and what is happening in the story. Ask them to guess what might happen next, or talk about how a character may be feeling. Praise your child when they join in with repeated sections such as 'run run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the gingerbread man!' Your child may 'read' a favourite story to you by looking at the pictures and making up a story – encourage this and give them lots of praise.



Playing games with your child such as snakes and ladders, dominoes, pairs, ludo etc provides opportunities for counting and recognising numbers.

It also teaches children how to take turns and the important lesson that they may lose sometimes!

We look forward to working alongside you to help your child enjoy learning and to achieve their potential.

We want your child's start to school to be as enjoyable as possible. During the next few weeks you may be wondering how to prepare your child for that all-important first year. We hope that the following information will give you some ideas on how to prepare your child.

Dressing and Undressing

Help your child to become independent in this area. They should be able to take off and put on their own coat. They will also need to change into their PE kit as independently as possible. Although it is sometimes quicker and easier to dress and undress your child, please give them the opportunity to practice this themselves.

Going to the toilet

Your child should be able to go to the toilet unaided. Please encourage them to ask to go to the toilet in an acceptable way and to always flush the toilet and wash their hands.

Tidying Up

Your child will be expected to tidy up the toys and equipment they have been playing with. Encourage them to tidy away their own toys at home and praise them for doing so.

Stories, Nursery Rhymes and Songs

Please give your child the opportunity to listen to many stories and to learn a variety of nursery rhymes and songs.