



Helping to get your child reception ready

Parents/carers often ask us what they can do to help their child get ready for school. To help, we have written this guide with some useful tips.



We want you and your child to feel excited and confident about them starting school. If your child feels confident in the following few skills, it will get their school life off to a brilliant start.

If they are struggling with anything or you need more advice, please let us know. We are always here to help.

Eating independently and using cutlery

At lunchtime, the children will use cutlery to eat their food and will be encouraged to use good table manners. Adults will look after them when they are eating, but if your child can use a knife and fork independently, it will help them feel more confident.

Help your child by practising using cutlery correctly at home and encouraging them to always say “please” and “thank you”.

Jack practised using cutlery at home before he started school. Now he can use a knife and fork to eat his lunch. He loves lunchtime with his friends.



Getting dressed and undressed independently

Children can struggle with fastenings on coats and shoelaces, so think about coats with zips or big buttons. Shoes with Velcro straps are the best option for children until they are confident with laces. You can also have some practice sessions before they start school and show them how to do up the zip on their coat, make sure they are putting a jumper on the right way round, etc. Most children love dressing-up games, so will really enjoy this.

Jack's coat has a zip and his grown-ups made sure that he practised putting it on and taking it off lots of times before he came to school. He feels very happy and confident doing it all by himself and ready to start his day at school.



2

Using the toilet independently

Your child will go to the toilet independently when they start school, but their teacher will let them know that they can ask for help if they need it.

Make sure that your child has lots of practice going by themselves and that they know how important it is to flush and wash and dry their hands when they have finished.

Talk to them about recognising when they need to go and that they will sometimes need to tell their teacher so they can leave the classroom.

Hinaa is going to the toilet. She asked her teacher in plenty of time, so she wasn't in a rush to get to the toilet. Everything is easy for her as she practised going to the toilet at home, so she knows what to do at school.



Recognising their own name

Your child will learn the alphabet and basic reading skills when they start school, but it will help if they can already recognise their name. So, for example, when they see it written on a coat peg, they will know where to hang their coat. Help them practise this before they come to school by showing them what their name looks like and by helping them to practise writing it.

Levi has found his name badge that goes above his peg in the cloakroom. He is so pleased he practised recognising his name at home with his grown-ups.



3

Enjoying books and reading

Books are an important aspect of life in school. We read with the children and share stories every day. It will help your child to settle into classroom activities if they are familiar with listening to a book being read and looking at and handling books. Reading to your child regularly and talking to them about stories and pictures is a great way to get them to enjoy books.

Hinaa loves looking at and reading books at school and at home with her mum. She enjoys describing what is happening in the pictures.



Sharing with other children

Learning to share and take turns is really important so that children can be happy playing and learning together. Talk to your child about this and encourage them to share their toys and take turns when playing.

Give them lots of opportunities to play with other children to help develop their social skills. When you see your child trying to share or take turns, make sure you give lots of praise and attention.

Jack wants to play in the construction area. Sophie shares the bricks with him and now they are going to make a wall together. They think it's much more fun building things together.



The Redeemer CE Primary School
Jack Walker Way, Blackburn, BB2 4JJ

Tel: 01254 296400

Email: office@theredeemer.blackburn.sch.uk

Web: www.theredeemercep.co.uk