

Easy ways to help prepare your  
child for school



## Communication and Language

### Ways to help your child prepare for school

- Ask your child about their day.
- Talk to them about family members and places they have been. Can they recall facts?
- Ask them to name things in the shop or what you can see out of the car window
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes. Listen for the rhyming words
- Games like 'Simon Says' promote good listening skills

## Expressive Arts and Design

### Ways to help your child prepare for school

- Encourage your child to make models with construction kits, like lego or stickle bricks. Discuss their model and get them to explain how they made it
- Paint pictures
- Make natural art with things that you find in the garden or wood
- Encourage your child to dress up and act out their favourite stories



## Knowledge of the World

### Ways to help your child prepare for school.

- When you are out and about look at the things in nature that are around you. Can you name the plants and animals that you see?
- Talk about the weather, seasons and changes over time
- Look at and discuss non-fiction books
- Use the computer, practise controlling the mouse and pad



## Literacy

### Ways to help prepare your child

- Read books together and talk about the pictures and the story content
- Point out words in the environment. Read signs and shop names
- Help your child to hold their pencil correctly and practise writing their name
- Practise learning the letter sounds and writing the letters using the school handwriting style. (hand-out available)



# Mathematics

## Ways to help you child prepare for school

- Help your child to count on rote, count stairs, fruit anything to hand around the house
  - Help them to recognise written numbers
  - Can they recognise and name shapes? Look for shapes in the environment
  - Play dice games to encourage counting or colour and shape matching. Encourage turn taking
  - Get your child to share out food or set the table
  - Order and write numbers. Complete dot to dot puzzles
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- Talk about the days of the week use language such as today, yesterday, tomorrow and next week
  - Use positional language



## Personal Social and Emotional Development

### Ways to prepare your child for school

- Try to arrange a play date with other children that are starting school at the same time
- Encourage your child to dress and undress independently ready for when they have PE
- Practise putting on and fastening their coat and shoes
- Talk about school in a positive way
- Find stories about starting school at the library





## Physical Development

### Ways to help your child prepare for school

- Encourage your child to colour and draw. This will help their pencil control
- Allow your child to use scissors and practise their cutting skills
- Playing at the park or riding bikes and scooters will improve gross motor control
- Use playdough to make models and make shapes
- Practise tricky fastenings and zipping up their own coats
- Complete jigsaw puzzles