

Getting Ready for Big School



Can you remember starting school?

What was
'big school'
like for you?



Is there
anything that
concerns you
for your child
starting
school?

*Tell us about your
child...*

What can they do well?

*What do they need help
with?*

*What do you do for
them?*



What does a typical Reception Class look like?





We asked local schools to tell us how parents could best support their children to be ready to start 'Big School'.



Encouraging independence in dressing/ undressing

Encouraging them to manage personal hygiene

Holding a conversation

Articulating their needs

Being able to listen and respond

Encouraging social skills

Developing perseverance, persistence, resilience, motivation

Encouraging engagement, curiosity, involvement

Encourage good manners and positive interactions with others

Some also mentioned other skills such as counting, reading numbers and holding a pencil



Then we asked what they thought would be most challenging...

Independence in dressing, undressing, managing personal hygiene

Speaking, Listening and attention

Personal, Social and Emotional skills

Following instructions/ adult direction

Changes in routine/ longer, more structured day

Leaving their parent/ carer

Building friendships



What can you do now to help your child to have a really happy start to their school life?



Make a list of promises to your child this should include:

Time- to practise and rehearse in order to conquer new challenges
High expectations for behaviour and clear rules and boundaries
Encourage to carry own belongings- do you overpack their bags?
Trying different foods to experience a healthy balanced diet
Using the toilet independently and wiping own bottom



Washing and drying hands
Placing clothes in a pile
Using a knife and fork
Naming all clothes and equipment
Teaching my child to recognise their name
Listening to others
Taking turns in conversation
Playing kindly with others
Model how to share and take turns
Remove soothers e.g. dummies/ blankets
Organise themselves
Encourage them to walk- not be carried
Choose appropriate clothing and footwear



Some Key Characteristics.

Resilience (Bouncing back from disappointment and mistakes)

Independence

Motivation

Perseverance/ persistence

Curiosity

Involvement

Engagement

Confidence

Tolerance

Having a go

Risk taking

Respect

Being prepared



WHAT NEXT?

**COMPLETE SHEET
ABOUT YOUR CHILD**

ATTEND

SCHOOL

INDUCTION

EVENTS

CLOTHING

INDEPENDENCE

SELF-HELP

PRACTICE SKILLS

HYGIENE