

WELCOME TO STENSON FIELDS PRIMARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

CARES

Caring, Achieving, Respecting,
Enjoying, Supporting.



SCHOOL READINESS

‘School ready’ is a Government initiative where pre-school providers and feeder schools work with parents on ensuring children are ‘school ready’ by the time they start in Reception. The DFE (Department For Education) interpret this as developing;

1. Language development and communication skills
2. Positive attitudes and dispositions
3. Social competence and self esteem
4. Emotional wellbeing.

As parents/carers, it is really vital that we share this with you as you can support hugely in achieving this.

How can parents/carers help their child to be 'school ready'?



As a school we have recognised some skills that are beneficial to develop ***before*** your child starts school and they are all things that you can support with at home.

Managing personal care



- going to the toilet independently and being able to wipe their own bottom
- washing their hands properly
- blowing their own nose



Encouraging independence



- putting on their own coat
- dressing and undressing – this is required for PE
- taking their shoes on and off
- knowing what their coat/shoes/bag looks like
- tidying up
- making food choices
- using a knife and fork
- peeling fruit – especially bananas/oranges



Communication, communication, communication!



- As much as possible we want children to be able to **communicate** their views/needs and also listen to others.
- They need to be able to listen to simple instructions and follow them.
- Have opportunities to speak about anything and everything.
- To have opportunities to answer questions or make choices.

What about reading, writing and maths?

When your child starts school they will not be sitting at a table learning how to read and write in a formalised manor.

Early years Foundation Stage is an extension of pre-school/nursery. It is;

- play based
- practical
- hands on

Before starting school children need to have had lots of opportunities to play. However, sometimes it is really beneficial for a grown up to also be involved in this, as they can model how to play and can also develop speech and language skills through the conversations that happen.

Early reading, writing and maths development do take place, here is how you can help.....

Early Reading



- Enjoyment of books, reading lots of stories.
- Talking about stories and the pictures, what's happening, who are the characters...
- Recognising their name (helpful in school for finding their coat peg, labels in clothes, registration)
- Having an awareness of letters and sounds i.e. Finding other words with the sounds in their name in the environment, talking about words in the environment – road name, logo's, shop signs etc

When they start School the children will start to learn letter sounds and names through the 'Little Wandle's letters and sounds' programme –this is called Phonics.

Early Writing



Developing fine motor skills is crucial – the first way to develop this is through hand strength; squeezing play dough, using chop sticks, threading, cutting with scissors.



Other activities ideas;

- Opportunities to make marks/develop a comfortable pencil grip – use different sized pens, crayons, chalk etc
- Tracing
- Painting
- Colouring books
- Writing their own name (if they are ready and want too – it is not necessary for them to be able to do this before starting school)
- Gross motor skills also play an important part, so physical activities that develop core strength such as climbing, riding a bike/scooter etc. will be beneficial.



Early Maths



As with reading, lots of practical opportunities;

- Counting forwards and backwards
- Number songs/rhymes – 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive, There were 10 in the bed....
- Counting objects – how many stairs up to bed, items in the shopping basket, teddies in a row
- Recognising numbers in their environment – house number, car registration, football shirt.
- Recognising simple shapes in their environment – windows, car wheels (square, circle, rectangle, triangle etc)



You know your own child best!

You will know what your child is confident with and what they may need to develop over the next few months. These are just ideas of how you can support your child during this time if you want to.



Pre school Eye checks

It is always a good idea to rule out any barriers that may hinder learning. If possible (under the lockdown circumstances) access the free pre-school eye check as soon as you can.

FREE!



Vital!

We look forward to welcoming you to our school community

If you have any further questions;

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