



Warwick Preparatory School



Getting ready for
Reception

Welcome to Reception

We hope this booklet helps you both prepare for school over the next few, exciting months.

However, if you have any worries about anything covered or any other concerns about your child starting school, then please let us know by contacting WPS-parents@warwickschools.co.uk.



Mrs Earl
Reception Coordinator



Mrs Smeeton
Head of Pre-Prep





Starting school is an exciting time for young children and their parents.

However, parents and children sometimes have worries and often ask us for advice about getting ready for school. Even if your child has been in a full-time Nursery, the step up to full days in Reception can feel like a challenge for you both so we have put together some advice to help make the transition as smooth as possible.

Being ready for school is more than just your child's reading and writing skills, it is about developing their independence, confidence, resilience and curiosity. We have prepared a list of essential life skills that children entering our Reception should look to master. If you can practise the essential skills listed in this booklet at home over the next few months, then your child will be 'ready to learn' in September and be more comfortable in their surroundings.

Our teachers will support your child in the development of these skills but if your child is able to master these prior to starting school then it will make a huge impact on how your child develops their reading and writing.



Essential Skills for Reception

Fine Motor Skills	<p>Being able to dress and undress independently.</p> <p>Your child will be changing into PE clothes during the school week. To help your child even more, before they start school, make sure that your child has practised putting their uniform on and taking it off.</p>
	<p>Practise putting on school blazer and coat, doing up buttons and zips.</p> <p>Throughout the school day, your child will need to take their coat and blazer off and put it back on again. Check that they can manage zips and buttons.</p>
	<p>Practise cutting along straight and curved lines. Cutting around shapes.</p> <p>Cutting out can be lots of fun and will not only help with the cutting skills but help to build and strengthen finger muscles. Real scissors are much easier for children to use.</p>
	<p>Being able to eat and use cutlery independently.</p> <p>At meal times, your child will be using cutlery to eat their food. Adults will always be available if the children need any help, but it will help your child to feel more confident at meal times if they can use a knife and fork independently. Help your child practise using cutlery correctly at home and encourage good table manners.</p>
Toilet and Self Help Skills	<p>Being able to go to the toilet independently – ensuring that they flush the toilet and wash their hands.</p> <p>We encourage independence in Reception, so your child will go to the toilet by themselves. This means that they will need to wipe themselves and flush the toilet when they have finished. They will also need to wash and dry their hands. If your child does not usually go to the toilet by themselves at the moment, help them practise before they start school. Reassure your child that if they need help, an adult will always be available.</p>
	<p>Using tissues to wipe and blow their nose.</p> <p>Children often have colds in their early school years. It will help your child to feel more comfortable and help prevent the spread of colds if your child is able to wipe and blow their nose.</p>
Using Manners	<p>Taking turns to speak.</p> <p>During the school day there will be times when your child has to wait their turn to speak. You could help them to develop this skill by playing games and asking them to wait when you are talking to a grown up.</p>
	<p>Encouraging eye contact when they are talking to someone.</p> <p>Some children find it very difficult to make eye contact, especially with adults. Try to encourage this at home when your child is talking.</p>

Speaking and Listening Skills

Following instructions.

Once your child starts school they will be hearing lots of instructions. Try to practise this skill by giving your child one or two instructions and see if they can follow them. Sending them to do little jobs independently can really help with this.

Listening to and talking about stories and nursery rhymes with an adult.

Sharing books helps children with so many of the skills that they will need to become readers. Talking about the story, predicting what might happen next, and finding letters and talking about rhymes will allow them to feel confident when they are sharing books in school.

Numeracy Skills

Singing counting rhymes with adults.

Children love singing and it can be a very useful way of helping them to remember number patterns. Lots of published songs are available if you don't feel confident yourself!

Being able to count.

Being able to count objects accurately will really help with your child's numeracy skills. You can help them to practise this in so many different ways, counting shells on the beach, playing board games. Counting using their fingers (with palms towards them) – holding up fingers to show specific numbers.

Recognising numbers.

Numbers are all around us, playing spot the number will help your child to become familiar with written numbers but also help them to see that numbers are used in the everyday world.

Using Manners

Recognising their own name written in different ways e.g. handwritten, typed, on name labels etc.

We will teach your child sounds and reading skills when they start school, but it will help your child if they can already recognise their name when they join us. This will help them with finding their own coat peg, for example. Help your child to practise this before they come to school by showing them what their name looks like, and by helping them write it. You may also like to help your child to start writing their name but please remember to use lower case, except for the first letter.





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