

There is no nationally set baseline which defines school readiness. Ofsted's 'Good Practice in School Readiness' publication states -

"By four we would expect:

- The children to be ready to be separated from their parent/carer and to be able to demonstrate listening skills by being able to show interest and pay attention to a subject or stimulus.
- To have enough language to be able to express their needs and to be able to communicate about what makes them who they are such as their name, age and something about family or relevant factors in their life.
- To be able to interact with an adult during play, by taking turns and taking responsibility for their actions.
- Children should be able to focus on and show interest in their work and the world around them and to be able to make observations and notice things and ask questions as well as be able to hold a book and understand aspects of the narrative and respond to boundaries in a setting."

Preparing for school

Encourage good behaviour by being a positive role model and by building the child's five C's which are five key characteristics:

- Confidence
- Communication
- Co-operation
- Curiosity
- Concentration

Try these activities to support your child's transition into school:

- Look at information about the school, including calendars of dates, map/layout, brochures, logos and pictures of the school which are available on the school website



- Try on school uniforms and use school equipment for fun and in play, to practise getting ready.
- Read stories and share experiences.
- Promote opportunities for the children to speak in sentences and initiate questions. Support children in how to play co-operatively and share using good manners.
- Encourage the children's independence with self help and care skills including trying to wipe their own bottoms and washing their hands after using the toilet or blowing their own noses.
- When you go out have packed lunch days to encourage the children's independence with taking off their own yoghurt lids, opening packets, peeling fruit etc.
- Teach the children how to manage their own risks for example when at the park, at home, in the kitchen or in the garden.
- Practise writing their names (starting with a capital letter and lower case letters for the remainder of the name) and writing, sounding out and recognising letters.
- Look for signs and labels in the environment, for example shop logos and favourite food labels.
- Practise recognising numbers and basic maths skills such as careful counting, 1:1 correspondence, adding and taking away objects and looking at sizes and shapes in the environment.
- Practise using scissors and other tools, such as paintbrushes, confidently and carefully.
- Play games like 'I spy' with your child and share favourite nursery rhymes.
- Make up silly rhymes with your child using words that start with the same letter or the words all rhyme, like 'cat, bat and hat'.



- Tell stories together using different voices, like loud voices or squeaky voices. Have fun!
- When sharing stories ask your child what might happen next, why they think something has happened and how they think the story might end.
- Help your child to make healthy choices and try different fruit and vegetables, for example by making fruit kebabs or vegetable faces.

Take interest in your child's schooling as this will have a big influence on their progress and will help to further their development. You are an integral part of establishing a starting point in your child's learning at moment of transfer. You provide a clear indication of any variations in your child's behaviour and development that occur in the home environment as compared to school which will usually be gained via a home visit from your child's teacher and from visits to the school.

Children learn through experiences they have had and by the examples set for them. The way we communicate with children shows them how we would like them to communicate with us and others so making time for one to one communication is one of the most important things you can do to help your child to prepare for school, as children learn when we talk to them about the world around them and talking and listening lays the foundations for learning to read.

If English is your second language it is still really important to continue to develop your child's home language even when they are learning English at school.



Other things you can do at home to help to support your child's transition into school;

- Praise them for their efforts even when they don't get it quite right
- Read stories and share experiences
- Look at the uniform and pictures of the school
- Talk positively to your child about your school and school experience and look at any old school photos you have.
- Drive or walk past the school in the mornings talking your child through the journey and preparing them for the new routine in the mornings.
- Encourage good manners and play sharing games at home taking turns and co-operative play.
- Practice writing their name, starting with a capital letter.
- Encourage your child to listen to stories and songs on the radio, Apps or suitable websites.
- Practice putting on their coat and doing up the zip and putting on their shoes and socks.
- Practice using a knife and fork when eating or playing, for example with playdough
- Encourage your child to practice good hygiene, for example going to the toilet independently, washing their hands and using a tissue to blow their nose
- Getting into a good bedtime routine makes for a more productive day at school. School age children should get between 9 and 12 hours of sleep every day (Sleep Foundation)

Once your child has a school place

Getting to know your child's school is very important to enable you to help to support and prepare them for this new stage in their life.

We give out an information pack in the summer term with all of the practical details you need to know about your child's school and school life. We also send out a PowerPoint containing key information (in it you will learn more about the school and the sorts of activities your child will be doing once they start) and we will invite you to a meeting for parents where you will meet other parents and visit your child's new class! You can also gain information about the school from a variety of other resources including our school website, prospectus and information pack.

SCHOOL:

Self reliance is essential for school as your child's independence will help them achieve their goals

Confidence, Communication, Co-operation, Curiosity and Concentration- Follow the 5 C's at home with your children as consistency is key!

Home/School visits- we will meet with you and your child one to one in their new classroom, prior to them starting school.

Observe your children through their transition into school as they may go through periods of uncertainty about the upcoming change.

Opportunities- Together we can provide your children with the learning opportunities and experiences they need to prepare them for school.

Learning Expectations- Challenge your expectations of your child, they may surprise you!

Key point to remember

Every family and child grows and learns in different ways. You are your child's first teacher and at every stage you make a difference to how well they will do in school. They love security and experiences that you provide, along with the support that you give your children, can make a big difference to good progression and enjoyment in school.



Westfield Primary School



**School Readiness
Preparing your child for school**

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