

# A Year of Transition



## Preparing children for Reception - Useful skills

Throughout the early years all children should have the opportunity to develop independence and resilience in order to prepare them for the next stage of their educational journey and to be confident, happy learners who are ready to learn. Reception teachers have shared with us some other useful skills and characteristics that they would like children to have when they start school.

These skills will help the children manage their day-to-day tasks and activities.

In our survey the most commonly suggested skills that teachers felt would be useful for children to have on entry to Reception are:

- Be happy to separate from parent/carer.
- Able to share and take turns.
- Able to select and use resources and play independently.
- Have understandable speech.
- Be willing to take part in conversations.
- To ask for help when needed.
- Be able to use the toilet independently.
- Able to sit and listen for short periods.
- Recognise their own belongings eg coat/shoes/lunch box.
- Able to take on and off their coat/shoes/wellies.
- Attempt to dress/undress for P.E.
- Able to use cutlery, drink from an open cup and feed themselves.
- Able to hold and use mark making tools.
- Able to recognise their own name and be beginning to write part of it.

In order to help your children to be ready for their next step, it would be useful to bear these skills in mind throughout their pre-school year. Provide plenty of opportunities to practice these skills through your daily activities and routines. All of these skills fall within the Prime areas of learning. A secure foundation in these areas is the best preparation for future learning that you can support with.

It would be useful to share the above list with parents and suggest how they can support their child to develop these skills at home too. The leaflet **Transition ideas for parents** can help them with this.