



JAMES AITON PRIMARY

PRIMARY 1 TRANSITION



Preparing your Child for Starting School Ready for Learning

It is our pleasure to work in partnership with you as your child prepares to begin their educational journey at Primary School.

There are many things you can do to prepare your child for starting school - this information sheet will consider what you can do to help your child become ready for learning, and as a result, confident in their own abilities when they start Primary 1.

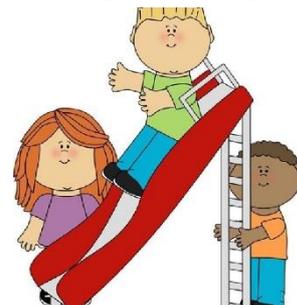
- ❖ Does your child recognise their name when they see it written down? If not, why not make a sign together for their room or for where they hang



their coat at home? This will help your child become used to print, to recognise the shape of their name, and will give them confidence when they start school to find where they should hang their coat or where they should sit.

Please remember, though, that only the first letter of your child's name should be a capital letter.

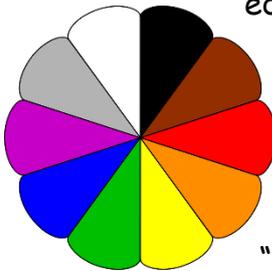
- ❖ Can your child share and take turns when you are playing? Sharing is a vital life skill which children need to learn in order to make friends and play or work co-operatively. Sharing helps children to learn about compromise and fairness, as well as negotiation and coping with disappointment.



- ❖ Encourage your child to share and take turns by doing simple things like taking turns to score goals at football or basketball, sharing some strawberries or a packet of crisps. And, of course, giving lots of praise and encouragement



- ❖ Does your child recognise colours? Recognising colours helps with educational skills, but also life skills, such as understanding red can mean danger, or stop at the traffic lights. Knowing colours can help a child differentiate between the hot and cold taps if these are marked with red and blue, or crossing the road with guidance from the "red man" or the "green man". Talk with your child about the colours of things they see around them. Ask them to find things that are a particular colour. Play "I Spy" using colours.



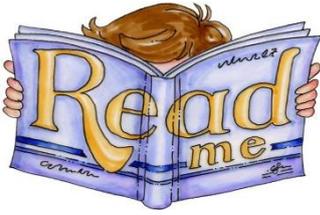
- ❖ Can your child use scissors? Children love to be creative, so you can help them develop fine motor skills by encouraging them to cut out with scissors, snipping at paper, cutting out shapes to make pictures, etc. This helps strengthen the finger muscles, which in turn helps with holding a pencil and writing, as well as developing focus and concentration.



- ❖ Can your child listen to a story, and follow along with a grown-up? Sharing stories with your child is great for their development. It helps your child begin to understand the concept of print, realising that there is text on a page as well as pictures. Reading stories helps your child value books, get to know sounds, words and language, and develop early literacy skills. Stories also helps develop imagination and curiosity. It doesn't stop there: reading to your child is also beneficial for the adult as it promotes bonding and builds your relationship.



- ❖ You can help your child when reading stories by talking to them and questioning them about what they can see in the pictures, what they think might happen next, etc. As the grown-up, you are also a good role model for your child as they will learn by watching you hold the book the correct way, and following you gently turning the pages as you read through the story.



- ❖ Can your child draw a picture of themselves? There are several stages of development in drawing, from scribbling to controlled lines, to shapes. But by the age of around 3 or 4 children usually begin to draw a person (a head with legs normally). Drawing is an important skill for children to develop. It builds their fine motor skills, it develops hand-eye co-ordination, it develops concentration and attention span, it develops creativity, and it is the foundation of pre-writing skills. You can encourage your child to draw using crayon or felt pen. These make the marks more easily on paper.



- ❖ Is your child aware of number? Can they count to 5 or 10? Numeracy is an essential life skill which allows us to solve problems, make sense of information, and make choices such as which item is the best value?



Children start learning numeracy skills through everyday play and activities, such as deciding how many slices of apple they would like.

- ❖ You can help develop your child's numeracy skills by pointing out numbers to them (eg the number of the bus that passes by), counting with them as you do daily activities (eg buy 3 tins of beans at the shop), involving your child in daily routines (eg set the table with 4 plates, etc). You can also play board games which use a dice and involve the players in counting how many moves to make. You could go for a Nature Walk, and collect leaves, sticks, pebbles, etc. Your child can then sort these by size, or shape, count the items, and so on. Playing hopscotch, skittles and "What's the Time Mr Wolf?" also develops numeracy skills.

