



Moving on.....to School

**Is your child starting
school this year?**

**A guide to support you
and your child**



Every Child is unique with different needs and ways of learning. Wherever your child is on their learning journey, this guide aims to help you and your child have a smooth transition into school life. When your child starts school they will continue to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum just as they have been through their childcare provider and in the home.

What you can do to support your child:

Share books with your child and tell stories about starting school. Your local library or children's centre may run sessions to support this.



Visit the school website and look at the photos together. Share the school brochure with your child.

Do you know any other children who will be also starting school with your child? Arrange play dates, or trips to the park etc. to help your child build friendships.

Familiarise yourself and your child with the school. Go on a planned visit, or just walk to and from school.

Encourage Independence by showing your child how to:

- Use the toilet and wipe their bottom on their own.
- Dress/Undress themselves. Encourage them to try on their school uniform.
- Use a knife, fork and spoon.
- Wash and dry their hands properly and understand when they should wash them.
- Eat a packed lunch (if they are not having hot school meals) i.e. opening packaging and what they should eat first.
- Continue to encourage them to do all of the above on their own.

“Learning is a lifelong experience and the most important thing in the early years is to have fun and be motivated to try new activities.”

Here are some ideas for fun activities you may like to share with your child to help develop social skills, physical skills and speaking and listening. More information can be found at your local Children’s Centre.

Read and share books with your child.

Take time to talk and listen to your child whilst playing with toys and games together.

Encourage your child to take turns and share when playing.

Sing songs and rhymes.

Make trips outdoors within your local area to encourage physical skills i.e. local park, woods, etc.

Work together on arts and crafts activities; encouraging use of scissors, glue, pens, pencils & paint.

Encourage imagination through role play of real life situations; i.e. shops, school, doctors, etc.

You might have heard that children should be able to do things such as write their name and recognise numbers 1-10 by the time they start school. All children develop at different rates and it is **NOT** expected that your child will be able to do these things.

However, if you feel you would like some support or advice with any of the above, your Early Years Provider, children’s centre or new school will be more than happy to help you.

Please visit www.foundationyears.org.uk/ parents section for more information.

What happens next?

Once a place for your child has been identified, the school will contact you to arrange your child's settling in.

If you have concerns about your child starting school full time, please discuss this with your child's Early Years Provider or school. They will be able to give you more advice and information.

If you are appealing for a school place, the school you have been offered may still contact you. If you are successful at appeal, the new school will then arrange your child's settling in process.

For more information about the appeals process please visit the admissions web page on: www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/school-admissions

For further information and support contact:

- Your child's new school
- Your child's Early Years Provider
- Family Information Service - www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/fis
- Foundation Years Website - www.foundationyears.org.uk/
- Your Local Children's Centre:
 - West Dorset 01308 421714
 - East Dorset 01202 840790
 - North Dorset 01258 480147
 - Purbeck 01929 552864
 - Weymouth and Portland 01305 778294
 - Christchurch 01202 221338

REMEMBER!
You know your
child best, if you
feel you need more
support then ask.

