

A guide to helping your child enjoy the exciting journey to school



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Enjoying the Journey to School



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Remember that your child may not be able to do it yet. That is ok. Just keep on encouraging them to have a go and make it fun.



I am excited about this new adventure and I am ok when my grown ups leave

I like visiting places and sharing what I saw with others

I am having a go at tidying away my clothes after I have taken them off

I am having a go at putting on my coat, hat, scarf and gloves

I like singing songs, nursery rhymes and number rhymes

I enjoy visits to the library. I am learning to hold the books correctly and turn the pages

I enjoy finding my name and having fun with numbers



I am brave enough to let someone know when I need help

I am remembering to wash and dry my hands after using the toilet

I am practising putting on my shoes and socks



I am learning to sit and listen for just a little time

I am learning to wait for my turn to talk

I am learning to fasten and unfasten buttons and zip up my clothes

I am having a go at wiping my bottom when I go to the toilet

I am learning to flush the toilet after I have used it

I am learning to use a knife, fork and spoon and am having a go at cutting up my food.

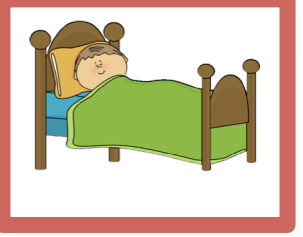
I am having a go at opening my lunch box and any packets, yoghurt pots etc.

I am enjoying chatting to other children and adults

I am learning to share my exciting news, stories, ideas and thinking

I am learning to blow my nose and put the tissue in the bin

I am brave enough to let someone know when I need the toilet



I am learning to eat healthy savoury foods first

I am learning to tidy away my dishes and put the rubbish in the bin

I am having a go at peeling my fruit

I am brave enough to speak out and share my opinions

I am learning to use manners such as may I, please, thank you, excuse me



I have good daily routines that help me get up and cope during the day

I have a good bedtime routine and enjoy a story with my grown ups

I am learning to wash myself and brush my teeth in the morning and at night

I am learning to wash and dry my hands

I am getting used to sitting at the table with others

I am enjoying asking questions

I am learning to follow simple instructions

I am using words to make friends



Enjoying the Journey to School

Welcome to the Journey to School. If your child attends a nursery, playgroup or child-minder's setting they are already developing the knowledge, understanding and skills that they will need when entering a school for the first time.

The practitioners in nurseries and playgroup settings will be working with schools this year to share and celebrate your child's achievements so far. It is important that children have time to adjust to the change over a period of time. Some schools will be inviting groups of children to visit and get used to the school throughout the pre-school year such as accessing the school library and attending special school events.

Some schools will be sending photographs of their environment to the nursery or playgroup so that children can sit and talk about the school with familiar adults in their nursery or playgroup.

Nurseries and Playgroups will request signed permission for your child's learning journey to be shared with the school during the first half term. This information is invaluable in helping Reception staff review your child's achievements so far and plan exciting learning at the start of the academic year.

We want children to be happy and excited about starting school so having fun with your child and enjoying learning together is the most important thing that you can do. Please remember that there is no 'getting ready for big school'. The curriculum may be similar to the one used in nursery and playgroup settings. Expectations during the transition period is for the child to adjust to the change and be happy and settled in their new environment.

Parental Support

We understand that it is often parents who are the most concerned when their child starts school for the first time. The information on this leaflet is not a ticksheet that has to be achieved before your child enters Reception. The information included is a guide that has been compiled by island-wide schools, nurseries and playgroups. Remember that your child may not be able to do it yet. That is ok. Just keep on encouraging them to have a go and make it fun. If you have any concerns please discuss them with your early years team. There are no silly questions so please feel comfortable in chatting through any queries.

Enjoying the Journey to School Poster

Enjoying finding out and joining in
We want children to be excited about starting school. Visiting places, singing songs and having fun when learning helps children feel comfortable during transition and starting Reception classes for the first time.

Becoming Independent
Having a go at some of the familiar routines such as getting dressed, washing hands and toileting with support if needed helps children to settle into Reception classes more easily.

Learning Routines
Being familiar with daily routines and having a go at following them helps children cope when faced with the initial unfamiliar routines in Reception classes. As the days are busy when adjusting to a new environment, good bedtime and start of the day routines help children cope more easily and have the energy to join in all the fun.

Snack and Mealtimes
Your nurseries and playgroups will already be supporting your child in following snack and mealtime routines. It is great if you follow these routines at home as well.

Making Friends
Your child may already be comfortable around other children and adults. They may have a group of friends who are attending the same school in September. This is great but do not worry if your child is attending a different school to their friends. Both your nursery or playgroup and Reception Teams will be aware of this and will work hard to ensure that your child is comfortable with their transition into school. If you are able to attend events at school with your child in the Pre-school year it is a great opportunity to socialise with other children and parents before they start.

Encouraging your child to use their manners and learn how to communicate is a wonderful start to school life. Do not worry if your child is shy or finds communication difficult at present. Keep encouraging them to have a go and make it fun.

