Useful websites

For help in establishing good routines
booktrust.org.uk/bath-book-bed

For information on toilet training
eric.org.uk

For information on Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and child development
foundationyears.org.uk

For advice on Hampshire admissions
hants.gov.uk/admissions

For information on health lifestyles
nhs.uk/change4life

For nursery rhymes and songs
wordsforlife.org.uk/songs
bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curations/nursery-rhymes

For information on local libraries
gov.uk/local-library-services

For information on childcare and Early Years in Hampshire
hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies

For advice on bilingualism in the Early Years
literacytrust.org.uk/resources/understanding-bilingualism-early-years

Some children may need extra support getting ready to attend school. If your child has additional needs and you are concerned please contact your child's setting and visit **fish.hants.gov.uk** for further information.

This leaflet has been produced by the Services for Young Children Advisory Team in consultation with Hampshire schools, pre-schools, childminders and parents - February 2019

Ten top things to enjoy before your child starts school

Colour in the smiley face each time you enjoy one of these activities.

Learn a new song or nursery rhyme each week	☺
Enjoy sharing a book together every day	☺
Visit the library regularly and choose books to take home	☺
Play with empty boxes – Where does your imagination take you?	☺
Draw pictures of things you have enjoyed doing together	☺
Go on a nature walk – What can you see, hear, touch and smell?	☺
Visit your local park – What will you discover together?	☺
Play I spy – What colours, numbers and letters can you see?	☺
Enjoy play dates with old friends and new	☺
Collect objects in a bag or a jar and make time to count them again and again	☺

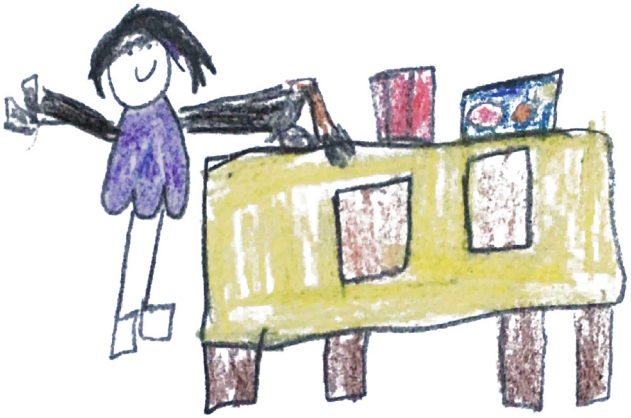
What else do you like to do together?

Your child does not need to be able to read, write or do sums before starting school. Children start school with a range of experiences and their teacher will be skilled at helping them to progress from their individual starting points.

Hampshire Services
SFYC PROFESSIONAL OPTIONS

Ready Steady School!

Is your child starting school soon? Are they ready? Are *you* ready?



Advice to help you build your child's confidence so that they start school with enthusiasm; curious and ready to learn.

Hampshire County Council

hants.gov.uk

A ready child

I am...

- Excited, enthusiastic, curious and confident about learning
- Happy to talk about things I am interested in
- Active every day
- Able to concentrate on something that fascinates me and maintain focus on an activity for a short period of time
- Able to communicate my thoughts, ideas and needs and listen for short periods of time
- Willing to have a go and keep trying when things are challenging
- Interested in a broad range of activities and have some good skills and knowledge
- Able to make simple choices
- Prepared to take risks in my learning by engaging in new experiences and learning by trial and error
- Beginning to accept the needs of others and can take turns and share resources, sometimes with support

A ready family

- Spend time playing with your child. Encourage them to be active and explore; sharing the excitement of discovering new things together
- Encourage your child to communicate their needs, feelings and emotions. If your child seems anxious try focusing on the things they like best
- Take time to talk with your child about things that interest them
- Encourage self help skills (getting dressed; using a knife, fork and spoon; going to the toilet; brushing teeth twice a day)
- Have fun being together and talking about the things you do, celebrating achievements
- Encourage your child to socialise and play with others
- Allow time for your child to relax, rest and play (Reduce screen time)
- Establish and maintain clear and consistent daily routines for your child's bedtime and family mealtimes
- Talk about how we all get better at things through effort and practice, and the importance of trying even when things may go wrong – be resilient!
- Give your child opportunities to take the lead and make choices

A ready school

- Assign every child a key person and inform each family of what this role will mean for them and their child
- Develop open and trusting relationships with families, sharing ideas about how to support children's development and learning
- Provide a high quality play-based learning environment which is safe, secure and inclusive and where all children can thrive
- Find opportunities to meet with families and share information about each unique child
- Develop strong links and liaise with all settings, supporting smooth transitions for all children to ensure appropriate continuity of care
- Demonstrate high expectations for each child; by providing challenge, promoting resilience and raising aspirations
- Enthuse, engage and motivate all children and allow them the opportunity to make decisions, giving them the confidence to learn
- Support and encourage children to make new friends and develop social skills
- Track individual children's progress and share next steps
- Enjoy learning together and having fun throughout the year