

Preparing your child for School – Pointers

1. Self Help Skills

- using the toilet/flushing/washing hands
- zipping/buttoning coat
- putting on/changing own shoes
- opening and closing school bag/lunch box

2. Reading Skills

- share books and stories every day
- sing songs and nursery rhymes
- look out for words in the environment- street names/shop signs/menus
- help your child recognise familiar ones (exit and bus stop are good ones to start with)
- let your child see you reading
- turn off the TV and talk about what you've seen. Look for familiar words on the TV.
- use your local library
- include a bookshop visit in a shopping expedition (You don't have to buy)

3. Listening Skills

- share a story and ask questions afterwards
- half way through ask what your child thinks might happen next
- add two instructions together i.e. When you've put away your shoes, fetch your book.
- make instructions a little trickier, make finding things into a game – “it's on the bottom shelf behind the door”
- share taped stories/songs

4. Writing Skills

- encourage pencil play, drawing, colouring
- encourage pretend writing i.e. child can write a shopping list at the same time as you. Doesn't matter if it's a total scribble, accept it like you accepted their early drawings – “tell me what's on your list”
- make patterns, copy patterns, finish patterns

MAKE LEARNING FUN. DON'T PUSH ANY TASK YOUR CHILD FINDS TOO HARD. DON'T EXPECT CONCENTRATION TO LAST MORE THAN A FEW MINUTES. – HAVE FUN!!!