



Toddington St George Church of England School Starting School

Introduction

At Toddington St George Church of England School we believe that parents are a child's first and enduring teachers. They play a crucial role in helping their children learn. Where parents are involved with their children's education and learning both at home and in partnership with the school, their children do better and achieve more. These benefits can be long-lasting and extend to better health, relationships and improved employment prospects.

We made this book entitled 'School Readiness' following a consultation process with parents. Previous parents have found it very useful, we hope you do too. We welcome any feedback and further ideas so we can keep this leaflet up to date. If you have any comments please speak to your child's teacher.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the creation of this leaflet.

**WHAT IS SCHOOL
READINESS?**





The benefits of parental involvement for the children are:

- It is easier for children to learn when they get encouragement from home
- They will do better and achieve more when their parents are involved
- Children get access to more activities in and out of school when there are more adults to help
- Their concerns can be sorted out more quickly when their parents have a positive relationship with school staff
- They are happy when their parents are enjoying events in the school

The benefits of parental involvement for parents are:

- Their children do better when they are involved
- They are better able to help and encourage their children
- They have more information about their children's education
- Parents can build their own confidence and skills
- Where there is a positive relationship between parents and their child's school there are benefits all round
- Parents get reassurance that their children are receiving a good education

School Readiness

There are certain skills which will support your child in being ready for their life at school.



Can your child sit still and listen?

This means can your child sit and listen, not to the television, but on other occasions which do not involve technology. Can they sit and listen to a story? Can they sit and talk over a family meal time for a short time? Do they ask questions and listen to the response?



Is your child aware of other children?

Can they play alongside others? This could be siblings or other family members but children also benefit from playing and interacting with children of their own age. Toddler groups, music groups, gymnastics or other groups are perfect at encouraging such interactions.

Does your child understand the word 'no' and other boundaries set for behaviour?

All young children find the word no and other boundaries a challenge and will at times voice their displeasure vociferously but as your child starts school it is very important that they understand boundaries.





It can help some children to have a simple reason given. The rules and boundaries, including any rewards and sanctions used in your house need to be **clear and consistent**. Children get confused if what was allowed on one day is not allowed on another and vice versa. Rules and boundaries at school are very clear so children transfer more smoothly when this is also the case at home.

Does your child understand the word 'stop' and that this may be used to prevent danger?

Young children who suddenly happen upon a dangerous situation need to understand 'stop'. This may save their life; For example, on the journey to school near a busy road. It may save them from hurting themselves or others; For example, whilst using scissors or other simple tools at school.



Is your child toilet trained?

The majority of children are toilet trained before they start school (unless there is a medical or other need). All young children may on occasion have an accident but they should be able to say when they need the toilet and attempt to toilet independently.

Can your child recognise their own name?

Most Nursery settings ask children to self-register. Most children learn to recognise their own name very quickly. You could start this process at home; for example writing their name on a picture they have made.



Can your child talk to an adult and explain their needs?



Young children can get very frustrated when they need something but the grown up does not understand what they mean. They need to learn the correct vocabulary for their everyday needs. For example in explaining they are hungry or thirsty/ hot or cold. It can also be helpful if they have had the experience of asking other grown-ups as well as their parents; such as a child minder or baby sitter.



Can your child dress themselves?

Children in Nursery need to be able to change their own shoes as well as put on and do up their own coat. They do this every day when they change for playing outdoors. Children are also introduced to a PE session in Nursery so they need to be able to remove their outer clothing and put on their shorts and t-shirts. Children generally learn these skills quickly but they do need to learn this independence at home before they start school.



Can your child talk in sentences?



Children are like sponges! They generally soak up language and learning quickly. You need to model how to speak correctly in complete sentences. Although it can be endearing when children use their 'baby talk vocabulary' as they get ready for school encourage speaking in sentences and the use of correct vocabulary. Research shows that children with greater language have better life chances.

Can your child open and enjoy a book?

Children need to have access to books and enjoy listening to stories as soon as they are born! Children who are used to listening to you read to them and enjoy books do better academically; have better language and communication skills; can concentrate better and get the benefit of enjoyment!



Books make great Christmas and birthday presents. Different stories can be enjoyed at and borrowed from the library.

(Ref- Frank Field 'The Foundation Years- preventing poor children becoming poor adults')

**Thank you for your continued support of the school
Should you have any comments please contact Mrs Collins**