

## Supporting Children's Transition to School

To help you support children and families as they prepare for the move to Reception, we have developed a collection of ready-to-use communication messages that can be shared directly with families through social media, emails, WhatsApp groups, or educational communication apps. The resource provides key information about school transition, including applying for school places and practical ways families can support children's communication, independence, social skills, and overall school readiness. Messages can be used as they are or adapted to suit your setting and families. Suggested months to share these messages are indicated in the left-hand column.

Please feel free to share these messages regularly throughout the year to help families build children's confidence and readiness for starting school.

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| September | <p> Getting Ready for School!  </p> <p>Starting school is an exciting milestone, and we know that a smooth transition helps children feel confident, happy, and ready to learn.</p> <p>Throughout the year, we'll be sharing ideas, information, and activities to help you support your child's journey to school. By working together, we can help your child develop the skills and confidence they need for a successful start.</p> <p>A great place to begin is with the Ready for School leaflet, packed with practical tips and advice for families:</p> <p> <a href="https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2022/9/28/Ready-for-school-leaflet.pdf">https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2022/9/28/Ready-for-school-leaflet.pdf</a></p> <p>We look forward to supporting you and your child every step of the way as they prepare for this exciting new chapter! </p> |
| September | <p>If your child is due to start school next year, now is a great time to begin exploring the schools in your local area. Attending school open days can help you and your child become familiar with different school environments and make informed choices about your preferences.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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|         | <p>You can find contact details and information about local schools here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/find-a-school">https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/find-a-school</a></p> <p>We encourage families to start visiting schools early, as this can help make the transition to school a positive and exciting experience for everyone.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| October | <p> Talking About Starting School </p> <p>Starting school is an exciting milestone for both children and parents. Getting your child ready for school is a journey that begins from birth, with all the everyday experiences and learning opportunities you've shared together along the way.</p> <p>While starting school can bring lots of excitement, it's natural for children and families to have questions or feel a little anxious too. To help support you during this important transition, we'd like to share the "Talking About Starting School" video from Leicestershire.</p> <p>We hope it provides helpful advice, reassurance, and practical tips to make the move to school a positive experience for your family. </p> <p> Watch the video here: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rO4fqPg7_d4&amp;t=198s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rO4fqPg7_d4&amp;t=198s</a></p>    |
| October | <p> Did you know that talking with your child is one of the most powerful ways to support learning and will help them to be ready to start school?</p> <p>Whether you're walking to the shops, cooking dinner or looking out of the window, talking together helps develop language, thinking and confidence. Every interaction is a form of communication.</p> <p>Try:  Talking about what you can see  Asking open questions  Giving your child time to respond</p> <p>Take a look at these 'Top ten tips for communicating with your child' <br/> <a href="https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/top-ten-tips-for-communicating-with-your-child.pdf">https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/top-ten-tips-for-communicating-with-your-child.pdf</a></p> |

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| November | <p>💛 Building social skills ready for starting school 💛</p> <p>Social development plays an important role in helping children feel confident, happy and ready for school.</p> <p>Through everyday experiences, children learn to: 👤 Build positive relationships with others 🟡 Understand themselves and their emotions 🗣️ Communicate and interact with those around them</p> <p>You can support your child's social development by: 🟢 Talking about feelings 🟢 Encouraging turn-taking and sharing 🟢 Playing games together 🟢 Helping them build friendships 🟢 Praising kind and thoughtful behaviour</p> <p>Take a look at these 'Top Ten Tips for helping your child to get along with others and to make friends' <a href="https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2022/2/17/top-ten-tips-for-developing-social-skills.pdf">https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2022/2/17/top-ten-tips-for-developing-social-skills.pdf</a></p>                                                                                                        |
| November | <p>🚽 Ready for School: Toileting Independence Matters 🛒</p> <p>As your child gets ready to start school, one important step is becoming confidently out of nappies well before they begin Reception.</p> <p>For most children, being toilet trained helps them feel more confident, independent, and able to fully join in with school life alongside their friends. It also supports their wellbeing and helps them manage daily routines with greater ease.</p> <p>If your child is still developing this skill, now is a great time to start encouraging regular toilet routines and celebrating their successes along the way. Remember, every child learns at their own pace, and small steps can make a big difference.</p> <p>Take a look at 'The Potty training guide' <a href="https://startingreception.co.uk/potty-training/#introduction">https://startingreception.co.uk/potty-training/#introduction</a></p> <p>If you would like advice or support with toileting, please speak to a member of our team. We're here to help you and your child on their journey to school. 💙</p> |
| December | <p>🏠 Is Your Child Starting School Next September? 🏠</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|         | <p>If your child is due to start primary school next year, don't forget to apply for their school place.</p> <p> The application deadline is 15 January.</p> <p>We encourage all parents and carers to submit their application before the deadline to give their child the best chance of securing a place at their preferred school.</p> <p>You can apply online and find more information about the application process here: <br/> <a href="https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-or-junior-school">https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-or-junior-school</a></p> <p>If you need any help in applying for a school place or have any questions then please let us know – we look forward to supporting your child on their journey to school!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| January | <p> School Readiness Tip: Giving Children Choices </p> <p>Did you know that giving children simple choices every day can help develop the confidence and independence they need for school?</p> <p>When children are offered choices, they learn that their thoughts and feelings matter. It gives them a voice, helps them communicate their likes and dislikes, and supports their ability to make decisions for themselves as they grow.</p> <p>Try offering choices such as:  Which book would you like to read?  Would you like an apple or a banana for snack?  Shall we walk or scoot to nursery?  Which coat would you like to wear today?</p> <p>Giving children age-appropriate choices helps them develop:  Confidence  Independence <br/> Communication skills  Decision-making skills  A sense of responsibility</p> <p>Remember, school readiness isn't about knowing all the answers. It's about helping children develop the skills, confidence and resilience to manage new experiences and challenges.</p> |

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|          | <p>For more information visit <a href="https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-06/offering-choices-to-children.pdf">https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-06/offering-choices-to-children.pdf</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| February | <p> <b>School Readiness: Growing Independence</b> </p> <p>Did you know that helping your child become more independent is one of the best ways to prepare them for school?</p> <p>Children build confidence when they learn to do things for themselves. Simple everyday skills such as:  Putting on their coat  Using cutlery at mealtimes  Managing their toileting needs  Having a go at dressing themselves</p> <p>These experiences help children feel capable, resilient and ready to take on new challenges.</p> <p>Remember, it's okay if things take a little longer. Giving your child time to practise and celebrating their efforts can make a huge difference.</p> <p>For more ideas to support your child's development:  <a href="https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/early-years-and-childcare/help-your-child-to-develop-and-learn-in-their-first-5-years">https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/early-years-and-childcare/help-your-child-to-develop-and-learn-in-their-first-5-years</a></p> |
| March    | <p> <b>School Readiness: Physical Development</b> </p> <p>Being physically active helps children develop the strength, coordination and confidence they need for school.</p> <p>Physical development isn't just about running around. It includes important skills such as:  Climbing and balancing  Running, jumping and hopping  Using scissors safely  Holding pencils and crayons  Developing hand strength and coordination</p> <p>These skills can be developed through play, both indoors and outdoors.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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|       | <p>Encourage your child to move, explore and have fun every day. Active children are often more confident and ready to engage in learning.</p> <p>More ideas to support your child:  <a href="https://www.active-together.org/preschoolers">https://www.active-together.org/preschoolers</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| April | <p> <b>National Offer Day is Coming!</b> </p> <p>National Offer Day is when families find out which primary school place has been allocated to their child for September.</p> <p>If your child is due to start school next year, keep an eye on your emails and application account on National Offer Day, the 16<sup>th</sup> April, to see your offer. This is an exciting milestone and the next step in your child's school journey!</p> <p>Once you have received your offer:  Accept your school place by the deadline provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Look out for information from your child's new school</li> <li> Attend transition events and visits where possible</li> <li> Continue building your child's confidence and independence ready for their start at school</li> </ul> <p>Remember, every child develops at their own pace. The months ahead are a great opportunity to encourage skills such as dressing themselves, managing toileting, following simple instructions, and making new friends.</p> <p>If you have any concerns or questions then please share them with us and we will do our best to help you</p> <p>We look forward to supporting you and your child through this exciting transition to school!  </p> |
| May   | <p> <b>Fun Activity Ideas to help your Child get ready for School</b> </p> <p>Starting Reception is a big step for your child, and for you too! Children learn best through play, chat and everyday routines. Practising small skills at home can help your child feel more confident, independent and ready for Reception.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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|        | <p>Look at this leaflet from 'Starting Reception' for fun activity ideas <a href="https://startingreception.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Starting-Reception_Activity-ideas-for-parents.pdf">https://startingreception.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Starting-Reception_Activity-ideas-for-parents.pdf</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| June   | <p><b>Starting school is getting closer!</b> 📅</p> <p>Over the summer, small everyday tasks can make a big difference to your child's confidence. Encourage them to practise putting on their own coat, washing their hands, using the toilet independently, and tidying away their toys.</p> <p>Remember, independence isn't about getting everything right. It's about having a go, building confidence, and learning from experience.</p> <p>Why not make practising fun by turning daily routines into games and celebrating every success along the way? ☀️</p> <p>For more ideas and advice, take a look at CBeebies Parenting's helpful guide on preparing for school: <a href="https://www.cbeebies.com/grown-ups/helpful-articles/preparing-for-school-or-nursery">https://www.cbeebies.com/grown-ups/helpful-articles/preparing-for-school-or-nursery</a></p> |
| July   | <p><b>Starting school isn't just about learning to read and write. It's also about communication and building friendships.</b> 💬</p> <p>This month, try to create opportunities for your child to chat about their day, share ideas, listen to others, and take turns during games and activities.</p> <p>Simple things like reading together, playing board games, and talking during mealtimes help develop valuable speaking and listening skills that will support them in the classroom.</p> <p>Every conversation helps to build your child's confidence and prepares them for making new friends when they start school. ❤️</p> <p>For fun activities and expert tips, visit CBeebies Parenting: <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/parenting">https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/parenting</a></p>                                                             |
| August | <p>The countdown to school has begun! 📅 ✨</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

Starting school is an exciting milestone, but it's normal for both children and parents to feel a little nervous too.

Over the next few weeks, you can help your child feel more confident by: ☐ Talking positively about school ☐  
Practising the morning routine ☐ Sharing books about starting school ☐ Encouraging independence with  
dressing and toileting ☐ Listening to any worries they may have

Most importantly, enjoy this special time together and celebrate the exciting adventure ahead.

For school-starting advice, activities and support, explore the CBeebies Parenting Starting School resources:   
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/parenting>