



# St. Bede's Catholic Infant School - EYFS

## Getting Your Child Ready For School

### Literacy

#### Reading and Developing Comprehension

Read as many books as possible. Children who are familiar with and enjoy books are much more likely to want to read:

- Talk about what your child can see in the pictures.
- Ask your child what they think will happen next.
- Ask why they think something has happened.
- Encourage them to re-tell familiar stories in their own words.



#### Phonics and Word Reading

In school we use 'Jolly Phonics'. The related songs can be found by typing 'Jolly Phonics Songs' into Google or YouTube. (They're free!)

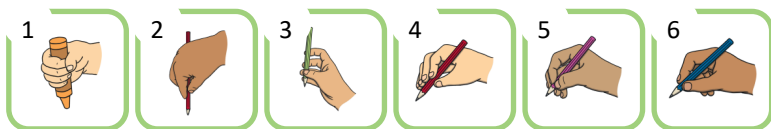
Playing 'I spy' is a good way of helping your child to hear sounds in words. You could also try looking for items in your home that begin with a certain letter.

#### Writing

Most children starting school are unable to write as you would usually recognise writing.

It is important to encourage them to develop their fine motor control first and ultimately be able to form letters correctly. You can develop these skills by encouraging them to draw, colour, paint, use playdough and cut.

Pencil grip is important and children should be encouraged to hold their pencil correctly. There are different stages that your child will go through in order to hold their pencil accurately.



While children may not yet know how to write letters or words, it is a good idea to support them to 'play' write. They can make shopping lists or write letters even if they are just making marks. This will enable them to feel like they can do it. Encourage them to tell you what their 'writing' says.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Support your child to work co-operatively and share. This is best done through playing games or with toys.

It is also important that your child develops some independence. Can they entertain themselves, play with their toys without your input?

Encourage confidence expressing personal thoughts and ideas. Let them lead the conversation and listen to and talk about their ideas.

Support your child to explore a range of activities. Encourage participation in less preferred activities to support the development of their confidence and self-esteem.



### Communication and Language

TALK TALK TALK TALK TALK TALK!

Nothing supports the development of your child's self-confidence and understanding more than being able to express their thoughts and ideas, using a growing range of vocabulary.

Talk about:

- What they **see** in the world around them.
- What they **think** by clarifying their thoughts and feelings.

When talking with your child encourage them to:

- Listen carefully and pay attention to what is being said.
- Speak in full sentences, to use appropriate tenses.

Sharing nursery rhymes and simple songs with your child are really helpful to develop their communication and language skills.

It is important to correct mispronunciations by modelling the correct ways yourself.



## Numeracy

### Number / Numerical Patterns

Practice recognition, ordering and formation of numbers to 10.

If your child is confident with numbers to 10 progress with numbers up to 20.

Use your fingers, the stairs, kitchen cupboard door etc to number and sequence.

Talk about more and less and bigger and smaller numbers. (Use stories such as 'Goldilocks' and rhymes such as '1,2,3,4,5, once I caught a fish alive.'

Look at door numbers, numbers on television etc.

Numbersongs on CBeebies iPlayer

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p075jwc2/numbersongs>

Numberblocks on CBeebies iPlayer

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b08bznzs/numberblocks-series-1-one> or

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPlwvN0w4qFSP1FIALB92w>.

### Shape, Space and Measure

Language and the development of mathematical vocabulary is essential to the development of children's understanding. Talk about:

- The size of objects – length, height, width etc. – make comparisons eg which is the tallest? Which bottle has the most in?
- Shapes – what are their names and what do they look like? Can you make shape pictures?
- Time – what day is it? Talk about today, yesterday, tomorrow etc.



## Physical Development

### Gross Motor Skills

Any activity: running, jumping, climbing, football, basketball, skipping etc helps to develop your child's control and agility. Encourage your child to try new things, to persevere eg riding a scooter, skipping.

### Fine Motor Skills

Fine motor control can be developed through using pencils, paint etc to make marks – start with big marks on big pieces of paper – a child needs to be able to scribble, then make controlled marks before they can colour in neatly.

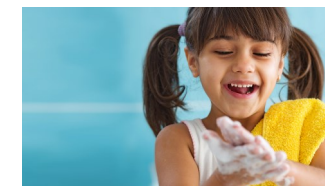
Play dough and craft activities also really help with this development as does your child using their fingers, hands or whole body to accompany songs and rhymes.

### Health and Self-care

Help your child to make healthy choices about food.

Support them to use a knife and fork effectively.

Work towards your child using the toilet independently.  
Ensure they know how to wash their hand effectively.



## Understanding the World

### Past and Present

Look at family photographs, share memories of the good times you've shared together. Talk about yesterday, today and tomorrow.

### People, Culture and Communities

Talk about the different jobs people have and how people help us. Consider and discuss any traditions or celebrations that your family or others enjoy.

### The Natural World

Be observant and talk about the changes that are happening in the world around us. Explore how plants are growing or how the weather is changing.

Think and talk about what things are made of and why.

Consider how we can care for our environment.

### Technology

Use child friendly programs on computers or tablets.

Remember all of the other technology in our homes. For example the washing machine, a kettle, television etc. What are they for and how do they work?



## Expressive Arts and Design

### Creating with Materials

Enjoy drawing, colouring, painting and craft activities to help your child to express their ideas.

Try colour mixing and experimenting with different textures. Begin with mixing primary colours together (red, yellow or blue) and see how the colours change.

### Being Imaginative

Don't forget that when your child is playing with cars, dolls, figures, dressing up, they are being creative and this play helps them to develop their imagination. Support them by joining in with their play. This will also help them to develop their language and vocabulary.

Sing songs, dance, make music!

If your child is interested in writing and is ready to record using numbers and letters, please use the formation demonstrated below:

Forming numbers correctly helps to distinguish them from others. Most numbers are formed using one continuous line.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Lowercase letters: Children will begin to recognise lowercase letter shapes first. We use these letter shapes for most of our writing.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m  
n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Capital letters: We only use capital letters at the beginning of sentences or for the initial letters of names and places.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M  
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z