

Preparing your child for Davington

The summer before school starts can be an anxious time for parents. We have put together some ideas and guidance as a simple guide to how you can best prepare your child for this exciting time in their lives! We hope that the activities we have suggested will fall into your everyday life and your child's play. This is not a checklist, but a list of ideas that you could use should you wish.

The Early Learning Goals changed in September 2021. We have included a copy of these in this pack for your information. We will use these in July 2023 to assess whether your child is emerging into the ELG or whether they have met age expected. We assess using a 'best-fit' criteria. We do not expect your child to be meeting these statements in September.

Promoting Independence

Your child will really benefit from being as independent as possible when they start school. Making sure your child's belongings are named is an essential part of independence in school.

Try to encourage your child to:

- ◇ Recognise their name
- ◇ Dress and undress independently
- ◇ Practise zipping and unzipping
- ◇ Practise doing up and undoing buttons
- ◇ Putting on Velcro shoes and sandals
- ◇ Using the toilet and washing their hands

Listening and Attention Skills

Your child will be given many spoken instructions throughout the day and will need to shift their attention from what they are doing to listening to an adult.

You can help by:

- ◇ Going on a listening walk
- ◇ Playing listening games such as 'Simon Says', 'I went to the zoo and saw a...' and 'I hear with my little ear'.
- ◇ www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/eyfs-listening-skills/zbc4y9q

Vocabulary Development

Summer is a great time to learn new words and extend your child's vocabulary. You could help by:

- ◇ Playing sorting games when packing for a day trip or holiday
- ◇ Going on a scavenger hunt in different areas such as the garden, beach, town, castle, woods
- ◇ Talking about new words in books you share
- ◇ Reading a wide variety of books. Some of our favourites are Winnie the Witch, Julia Donaldson, Captain Flynn and the Pirate Dinosaurs and Oi Frog

Mathematical Development

Being able to count to 10 forwards and backwards would be a great benefit. Recognise how many objects are in a group to 3 without counting (subitising) would also be useful.

You could help by:

- ◇ Singing counting songs
- ◇ Playing games using a dice
- ◇ Counting objects - your steps, lampposts in the street, dogs you spot on a walk
- ◇ Going on a shape hunt to see how many circles, triangles, squares and rectangles you can find.
- ◇ Read number books (Handa's Surprise, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, One is Snail, Ten is a Crab)

Reading

Sharing books and talking about them with your child is the activity that will have the greatest impact on their reading and comprehension ability. You could help further by:

- ◊ Listening for rhymes
- ◊ Identifying the sound words begin with (they do not need to be able to recognise the letter) e.g cat starts with a 'c' sound
- ◊ Listening to nursery rhymes and traditional tales

Writing

Gross motor skills are an essential part of a child's ability to coordinate themselves for writing. This includes gross motor and fine motor control skills.

Gross Motor

Gross motor skills are an essential part of a child's ability to coordinate themselves for writing. Being able to sit on the floor and on a chair without wobbling would be of great benefit.

Activities to support the development of these muscles include:

- ◊ Going to the park
- ◊ Riding a bike, scooter or trike
- ◊ Swimming
- ◊ Obstacle Courses
- ◊ Hopscotch, skipping, running and jumping
- ◊ Trampolining

Fine Motor Control

Fine motor control is the use of our fingers, hands and wrists. Many children are yet to develop the muscle strength needed to hold a pencil and control it effectively. Therefore, at Davington we do not introduce formal letter formation and writing skills until after Christmas, when we use a pre-cursive script with lead ins and lead outs. Being able to write is not essential so please do not worry if your child can not write their name when they start school - we will teach them this when they are developmentally ready for this step.

You can help prepare your child for writing by:

- ◊ Using scissors to cut snips in paper or around shapes. If your child finds normal scissors difficult you could purchase some loop handled scissors which spring open after being squeezed.
- ◊ Playdoh
- ◊ Threading beads, pasta, shells etc onto a string
- ◊ Drawing and painting
- ◊ Using tweezers to pick up large then small objects
- ◊ Blowing bubbles
- ◊ Jigsaw puzzles
- ◊ Playing in the water and sandpit
- ◊ Threading pipe cleaners or ribbons through a colander
- ◊ Construction activities such as Duplo, Lego, Hot Wheels tracks

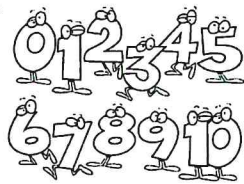


We hope you all have a safe and healthy summer and look forward to welcoming you in September.

Getting Ready for School

I can....

- ☐ recognise my name
- ☐ sing some number songs
- ☐ recognise some common 2D shapes



I can....

- ☐ sing some nursery rhymes
- ☐ tap a beat
- ☐ move to music
- ☐ talk about the sounds I can hear around me



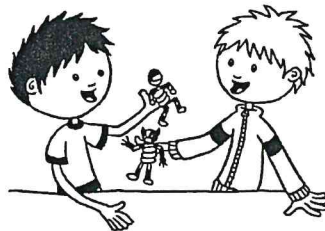
I can....

- ☐ eat with a knife and fork
- ☐ try different foods
- ☐ tidy away things I have used
- ☐ help at home



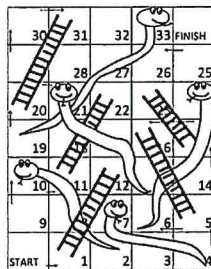
I can....

- ☐ say please when I ask
- ☐ say thank you
- ☐ take turns when talking
- ☐ talk in full sentences



I can....

- ☐ play nicely with another child
- ☐ share my toys and games
- ☐ take turns when playing a game
- ☐ lose a game well



I can....

- ☐ draw a face
- ☐ name the colours I see
- ☐ colour in carefully



I can....

- ☐ put my arms in my coat
- ☐ fasten zips and buttons
- ☐ put on my shoes and wellington boots
- ☐ fasten my shoes by myself



I can...

- ☐ get dressed by myself
- ☐ leave my parents/carers without being sad
- ☐ talk about how I am feeling

I can....

- ☐ ask to go to the toilet
- ☐ wipe or clean myself when I've been to the toilet
- ☐ wash and dry my hands



I can....

- ☐ use scissors to make snips in paper
- ☐ run, crawl, jump and climb without bumping into things
- ☐ ride a scooter, trike or bike

