

# Truro Nursery School

## Getting Ready for School



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### What really makes a difference to your child moving on:

Being able to separate from  
parents/carers and interact  
independently with others

Being able to dress and un-  
dress themselves and put on  
their own shoes

Being able to go to the toilet  
independently

Being able to eat using a knife,  
fork and a spoon

Being able to speak in sentenc-  
es, ask questions, communicate  
their needs

Being able to concentrate for  
increasing periods of time

Good physical skills (running,  
jumping, balancing, catching,  
kicking, handling small items  
with ease)

An enquiring mind, what will  
happen if....

Confidence and happiness

### What is School Readiness?

Many parents and carers worry  
that their child doesn't know  
their phonics, cannot write  
their name or count 10 items  
before they go to school.

These skills are a misconception  
for school readiness and there  
are far more important skills  
that will help your child.

Remember all children are  
unique, different from each  
other and on their own develop-  
mental journey—we cannot (and  
should not) lump them  
altogether with a  
standard list of things they  
should be able to do.

The most important qualities  
for school readiness are to do  
with confidence, ability to com-  
municate their needs, solving  
problems, self help skills and a  
positive frame of mind.

**Remember not all children will  
be able to do everything in this  
booklet—everyone is different.**

• Try not to hurry your child • Give them plenty of time to follow their own interests

When allowed, try leaving your child with known trusted adults (family members/good friends) for short periods of time. This could start with 5 minutes.

**How to help your child to build on what they know and be confident for their transition to Primary School.**

Share lots and lots of quality books—children learn language from books that they do not learn anywhere else!

Make lots of marks, use sticks, large brushes, chubby crayons, pencils and pens—the more they do the stronger their muscles in their fingers and the easier they will find it to write

• Enjoy the activities • Talk to your child about what they are doing

When allowed, encourage your child to play alongside or with other children. If play-dates are allowed encourage a few with children who your child will be going to school with

Follow your children's interests and fascinations let them talk about them, ask some questions and show interest.

Play dressing up games, practice putting on their own coat. Fastening up zips and buttons are tricky skills but good exercises. Start with easy fastenings like Velcro before moving to zips and buttons. Labels are at the back.

**Mathematical awareness**  
Develop awareness of numbers by getting your child to help around the house—set the table, count the plates, match the socks from the washing line, measure out ingredients for baking. Sing counting songs (that go forwards and backwards). Ask your child to bring you a number from a set e.g. can you bring me 5 raisins from the bowl of 20? count out a number of items pointing to each one in turn—make it real how many pennies have we got to go shopping?

Show children how to pull down their pants, wipe themselves, flush the toilet and wash their

Take time to talk, sing nursery rhymes and play games. Don't be afraid to use words your child won't know—if they never hear new words they will never learn them.

Look at the school website—talk about the pictures.

Begin to identify some sounds and letters in their name (Harriet starts with a h sound, Mum has a m sound)

Make the journey to school a few times so that the children know what to expect

Be positive—try not to compare children. They all learn at different rates!

Use the school name or Primary School rather than 'big school' or similar in conversations

Give your child some words to ask someone to play and to ask an adult for help or to go to the toilet.

Work on independence at mealtimes, using appropriate cutlery. This is also a great time for family discussions.

Be confident yourselves. If children think you are nervous or upset they will feel this way too and may even feel responsible for your feelings.

• Repeat activities as often as they wish • Sit on the floor and play at their level •

• Don't worry about any mess....it can be cleared away later • Enjoy playing with your child • Praise all their efforts and achievements