

Welcome to King's Lodge School



Preparing your child for
starting school

Time

Give your children time

Play together, talk together and expand on experiences.



Listening



1. Children need to be really good listeners

They need to be able to truly listen and tune in to what is around them.

2. Stop, look, listen

Your child should be able to stop what they are doing, as soon as you have said their name. They should look at you and show you that they are actively listening to what you are saying. Expect your child to reply appropriately.

3. Eye contact and turn taking

Expect them to stop, look at you and reply to what you have said. Encourage them to give you eye contact when they are speaking and to take turns in conversation.

4. Make time to have conversations with your child

During this time put all gadgets away and have time with your child. Sit together on the sofa, sit around the table and eat a meal together, have a conversation with your child during these times.

Reading

1. Share books daily

Snuggle up and share a book every single day. Make it a special time. Immerse your child in as many different books as possible.



2. Develop a love of reading in your child

It immerses the children in different worlds, it develops their imagination and vocabulary. It allows the sharing of thoughts and feelings.

3. Reading is the key to all learning

If they love books, they love reading. They will then be able to access every area of the curriculum.



Experiences



1. When out and about talk to your child about what is going on around them. What can they see? Engage with them.

2. Visit the supermarket, walk to a park, go to the woods. Try to give your child as many different experiences as possible before they start school.

3. Use these experiences to notice numbers in the environment, count things when you are shopping. Count steps / jumps / skips on your way to the park, notice numbers on doors and car number plates. Take time to notice the world around you and to chat about the things that you can both see. Encourage your child to ask questions about the world around them.

Physical

1. Children need lots of physical experiences

Visiting the park is a really good way to develop gross motor skills. Encourage your child to climb, swing, balance, to travel under and over the equipment. Find trees to climb and build dens together.



2. Good Gross motor skills helps to develop better writers

If they have good gross motor strength (big movement) they will be better writers.

3. Develop fine motor skills

Activities like playdough, threading, flick football, pegging out the washing all help to develop the muscles in the hand. This helps prepare them for holding a pencil.



Physical



1. Dressing and undressing, shoes and coats

Teach your child how to put their shoes and coat on.

They also need to be able to do up the zip. Start practising this now so that they are confident by the time that they start school.

2. Personal hygiene

If your child is not yet properly toilet trained, now is the time to start. They must be able to use the toilet properly, wipe their bottoms and wash their hands. Start getting your child to wipe their own bottoms NOW. There is no body at school to do it for them!



3. Lunch boxes and drink bottles

It is really useful to get your child to practise opening lunch boxes (if they are going to have one) and drink bottles.

It is also good to get them to start peeling their own fruit, opening food packaging and using cutlery.



Finally



Please DO not feel under any pressure that your child should be able to write their name or recognise any letters. That is what we will teach them when they start school.

Instead talk to, listen to, communicate with, expand their vocabulary, share lots of books, provide lots of physical opportunities, and enjoy spending time with your child.

Encourage risk taking, perseverance, independence and resilience!