



Welcome to Brookside Primary School



Supporting your child
as they start school

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Introduction

Welcome to Brookside School. This booklet is intended to help you support your child in getting ready for and starting school. We hope to give you some ideas for things to do at home and also an indication of how things are done at school.

Getting ready for School

The best possible start for your child at Brookside is ensured by complete co-operation between home and school from the beginning and continued throughout your child's attendance at school. It is hoped that starting school is an enjoyable experience for your child. We encourage independence in the children in all school activities and welcome parental help in achieving this. You can help by encouraging them to be self-reliant. This will help in their adjustment to new routines.

- Can they dress and undress themselves?
- Can they manage the toilet with the habit of washing hands afterwards?
- Can they use a knife, fork and spoon?
- Can they fasten their own shoes?
- Encourage them to recognise their own name in print form and to look after their own belongings.
- Learn simple rhymes and songs with them.



- Help them to listen and carry out simple instructions.
- Help them to tell simple stories and enjoy books.
- Play games, build models, do jigsaws and assemble toys with your child, talking all the time
- Help your child use a pencil and scissors correctly.

All the preparation above is to encourage your child to be independent. However, all children develop and mature at different rates and some tasks may prove more difficult than others. Do not be concerned about this, as all your encouragement will support your child.

Reading



At Brookside, we aim to promote an interest and pleasure in reading as well as teaching a range of strategies to make sense of the texts read. This will lead to children reading confidently, happily and independently. You can support your child in their reading development by regularly reading with them at home. Find a quiet place to sit together and share the books.

Reading Book Activities

- Help your child to tell the story from the pictures in the book.
- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Encourage your child to follow the text from left to right.
- Ask a few 'why' questions about the book as you read.
- Talk about the characters in the book.

- Compare events and people in books with your own lives.
- Accept your child's efforts without criticism. Always encourage and praise his or her efforts.
- Discuss information gleaned from factual books.
- Encourage your child to look at the cover of a book and guess what it may be about.
- Encourage your child to retell stories.

Supporting Your Child When Reading

If your child stops at a word and doesn't seem to know how to tackle it, try one or more of the following prompts.

- Look at the picture.
- Look at the first letter/sound of the word.
- Can you think of another word that looks a bit like that (e.g. call-all, look-took)?

Handwriting

At Brookside we aim to teach children to write in a way that is legible and fluent. We use a style which enables the letters to be joined easily at a later stage.

Continuity from the foundation stage through Key Stages 1 and 2 is vitally important. We have an agreed style and 'patter' for helping children to recall the required movement for each letter.

There are several ways in which you can help your child with handwriting.

- Focus on letter patterns which build on three basic letter shapes: c (the curly caterpillar), l (the long ladder) and r (the one-armed robot).
- Include patterns that move across the body from left to right.
- Provide sewing and weaving activities.
- Develop a pincer movement. Show your child how to use tweezers to pick up and sort sequins, small beads etc.

Writing

We encourage an emergent approach to writing at Brookside, giving children the confidence to 'have a go' at writing independently. You can encourage this at home in several ways.

- Provide newspaper, old wallpaper, lined paper, plain paper etc. and a variety of writing implements and let your child experiment making their own marks on the paper.
- Give your child the opportunity to write shopping lists, letters, addresses on envelopes, birthday cards, invitations, recipes etc.
- Encourage your child to use lower case letters only, apart from the first letter of names.
- When your child shows further interest in writing, encourage them to make their own books and write stories to go with their pictures.
- Remember praise your child's writing, even if it is not clear what it says!
- Let your child see you and other members of your family writing.



Numeracy



There are many ways you can help your child in maths. Adults use lots of maths at home, in everyday activities such as cooking, shopping and DIY. We use a range of maths while spending money, measuring, calculating, and so on. You can support your child's learning by involving them in these everyday activities.

- Talk to your child about which coin to use to pay for a toy.
- How many oranges do you need?
- Is your child taller than their friend?
- What time is Granny's party?
- How many more minutes until we need to go to school?
- Use maths in the kitchen. How many plates do we need? Can you find me three big potatoes?



- Sing number rhymes and songs, particularly ones that involve holding up a number of fingers Practise them with actions.
- Play dice games, such as snakes and ladders or ludo, showing your child how to count on spaces.
- Look for numbers, shapes and patterns in the environment, e.g. house numbers, car number plates, triangular signs, brick patterns.

