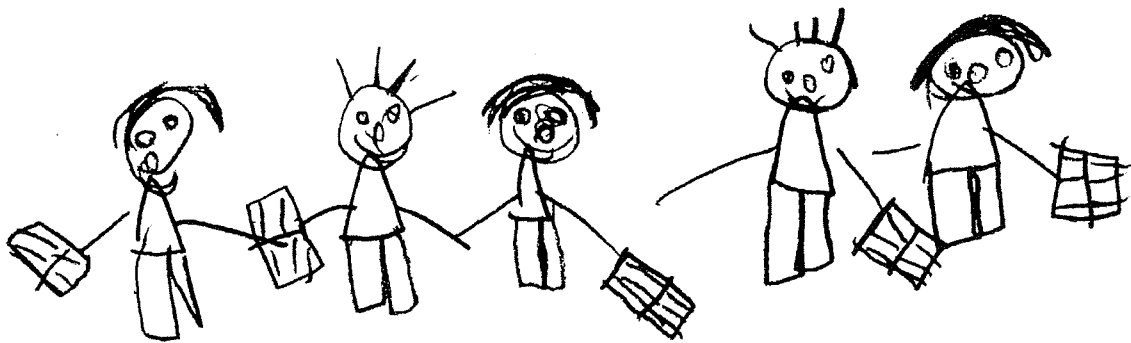




# Helping your child prepare for school



Starting school is an exciting time! It is another of the steps in your child's life-long learning journey. You might be feeling a little apprehensive about your child's first few days at school. However, the following suggestions will enable you to prepare and help your child settle down and enjoy this new adventure.



Talk positively with your child about starting school.



Discuss with your child your positive memories of school. Ask your child what they expect when they start school.



Try to promote self-confidence in your child by using praise and encouragement to make them feel good about themselves.



Encourage your child to be as independent as possible through daily routines i.e. getting dressed, cleaning teeth, tidying up, trying new foods, looking after themselves in the toilet etc.



Encourage your child to take care of and respect their own and other people's things.



Take every opportunity to talk with your child and encourage them to join in with the conversation.



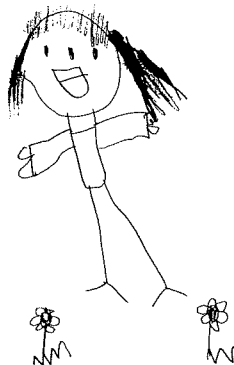
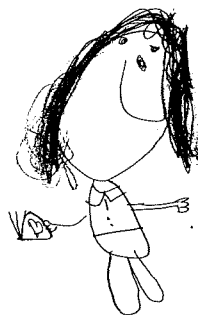
Try to take time to answer your child's questions and encourage the development of their curiosity.



Encourage your child to listen carefully to instructions, stories, descriptions and explanations.



Have fun with your child using action rhymes, finger rhymes and nursery rhymes.



Encourage your child to enjoy books by:



Visiting the library, choosing books and story CDs to listen to during car journeys.



Reading storybooks with pictures. Point to the words and pictures as you read and talk about the story. Ask questions -what will happen next? Which is your favourite character in the story?



Letting them see how you read the words and how the pages turn every time you read to them. Show how, as you turn the pages, the story develops and new pictures are revealed. Encourage children to turn the pages themselves.



Asking your child to retell well known stories to you, or to make up their own stories, using the pictures in the book as prompts.

### Housekeeping



Please make sure everything brought and worn to the academy is named.



Ensure you arrive at the academy in good time. Doors will open at 8.50am for children to come into school. It is important to establish a smooth routine as soon as possible.



When leaving your child at school say good-bye in a positive and friendly way. Do not wait until your child is occupied and then 'disappear'. If your child does get upset it is better to leave quickly and let us comfort them. You are welcome to ring the office later to check they have settled.



Your child will be offered a piece of fruit/veg at school daily. This is provided through a government funded project called The National Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. Milk is also available.



If your child is ill and unable to come to school, please phone the office between 8.30am and 10.30am and when your child returns please send in a letter explaining their absence.



Please inform us who will be collecting your child on a regular basis and let us know on the day if someone different is collecting.

Please ensure your child has:



a named clear sports bottle with water for drinking during the day. Other drinks, including flavoured water are not permitted during learning time.



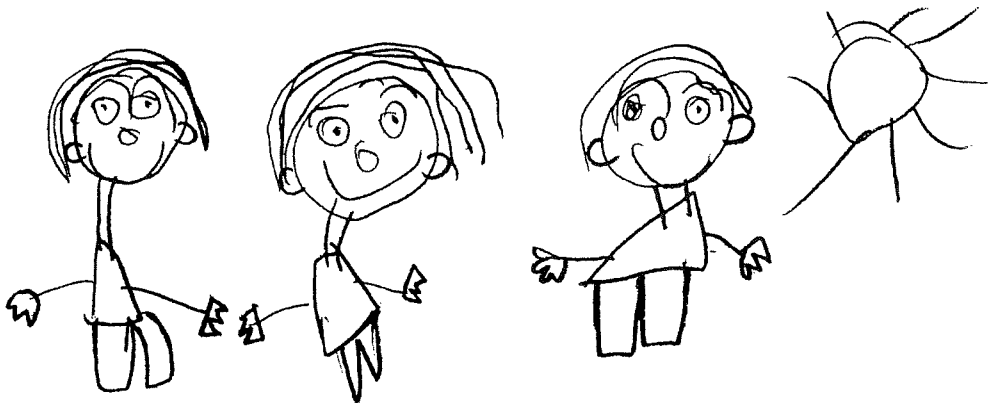
a named PE bag with the appropriate PE kit (please see the uniform list in your welcome pack), which should be hung on their coat peg for the half term.



a named book bag (available from the academy office) is also required. In the first few weeks of term there will be an "Into Year Group" meeting explaining the procedure of choosing and reading books at school/home.



The Easy Lunch Company provides free school meals for all children at the Infant Academy.



We are looking forward to your child joining us. If you have any queries please contact Mrs Cavallo or a member of the Early Years Foundation Stage team.

Best Wishes

The Early Years Foundation Team

In the Early Years Foundation Stage at the Southwater Infant Academy we will encourage your child's independence in all areas. It is our expectation that most children would be able to do the following.

Recognise their own name.

Get dressed and undressed.

Have a go at drawing a picture

Behave safely.

Have a go at snipping with scissors.

Put their coat on.

Put on and do up their own shoes.

Tidy up their own toys and games.

Look after themselves in the toilet and wash their hands afterwards.

Be polite, kind and helpful to others

Be able to identify colours

Count to 10

Hold a simple conversation by listening and answering questions.