

At BLS we pride ourselves on knowing your child well, particularly with our key person system. You however, know them even better. We have therefore put together a list of suggestions to support you in preparing your child for the transition to 'pre-school'.



Independence

Encourage toileting as children will be required use a potty/toilet with support.

Help them in learning how to pull trousers down and back up.

Teach them how to wash and dry their hands.

Allow your child to walk upstairs independently, using the handrail or your hand.

Encourage your child to carry their own bags and belongings.

Children will be putting on/off their own coats, shoes, (Velcro makes this possible)

hats, scarves and mittens.

Allow them to put their belongings into the cloakroom / onto their pegs independently.

Teach them how to feed themselves at mealtimes with 2 pieces of cutlery.

Social Skills

Support your child in co-operating with adults and peers.

Help them follow rules and understand boundaries.

Turn taking requires practise.

Sharing isn't always easy.

Talk about feelings and emotions, along with strategies to manage them.

Give them confidence to deal with separation.

Build their self-esteem so they are able to vocalise their needs.

Communication

Talk to your child as much as possible. Allow them express themselves - talk about themselves, their families and what's important to them. Model correct pronunciation of vocabulary.

Help them notice things, ask questions and initiate conversations.

Discuss the day, date, weather and the seasons.

Encourage them to ask questions.

Model language correctly e.g. horse not horsey.

Extend their vocabulary wherever possible.

Help them understand instructions. Start with 1 step and progress to 2 and 3 step instructions. Play Simon Says.

After a day out - encourage your child to sequence the events.

What did we do first, next, after, at then end etc.

Play treasure hunts, using descriptive language.

Pre-School Ready?

Physical

Dummies or comforters are used for rest periods only and will be phased out when appropriate.

Open beakers are used for all drinks.

If they do not already have a good sleeping pattern at night, it's an important time to encourage it. Sleep times at BLS are reduced/reducing to 1 hour.

Take them to the park to run and develop special awareness.

Throw, catch and kick balls.

Encourage upper body development on monkey bars and climbing ladders.

Teach the correct holding of scissors.

Fine motor skills can be developed using:

Threading activities

Mastering the use of a knife and fork

Doing up zips

Playing with small lego

Opening packages and envelopes

Familiarity with their New Environment

Read books about starting pre-school.

Talk about their new room leader/teacher.

Let them try on their uniform. (independently)

Talk about the exciting learning opportunities, but gently introduce that there

will not be as much free choice.

Please note that feedback at BLS is generally provided outside the pre-school room. Feedback at other providers may be far more limited.

Talk about the new journey and who will be taking them.

Visit the school whenever possible, including summer fayres and Open Days.

Have play dates with new school friends.

Reasoning and Maths

Play all kinds of games including board games, but allow your child to think for themselves. Predict, experiment and fail, but try again. Don't always let them win. Help them deal with the emotions associated with losing and/or not being first.

Offer lots of different jigsaws. Use numbers and shapes in the environment for children to recognise. Not always regular shapes. Talk about biggest, smallest, tallest and shortest.

Count objects by pointing 1 at a time to them. Don't forget 'zero'.

Count forwards and backwards. Up and down. Count claps, steps and jumps too.

Use dice and dominoes to support patterns and number recognition too.

Support for this is available in the Maths star of the BLS website.

Phonics and Writing

Use Jolly Phonics rhymes and actions to support correct pronunciation.

Available on the Parent Area of the BLS website and on-line.

Encourage the correct pen grip if they choose to mark make.

Reading and Singing

Read 'with' them and not just 'to' them.

Read books, comics, postcards, posters, signs and labels.

Look at and discuss the illustrations of a story.

Ask questions about the story.

Point to the words as you read,

Re-reading stories has huge benefits.

Allow your child to re-tell the story to you.

Talk about the events, settings and characters.

Share rhymes with your child.

Suggested book lists are available in the Literacy star of the BLS Website.

**Praise and encourage your child,
thereby teaching them to enjoy learning.**