



Teaching School Alliance

Getting ready for starting school

A guide for how you can help your child to prepare for their new school



Beginning school

Starting school is an exciting time for children and parents but it can also be a worrying time too.

Schools from the STEP Teaching School Alliance have been working with local preschool providers to produce this handy guide. We hope that it will give you some helpful ideas on how you can help your child to prepare for starting their new school.



Our aim is to work alongside you to make sure that your child has a happy and positive experience when they start school.

It is not important if your child cannot read, write or do sums before they start school. Children start school with a wide range of abilities and their teacher will be skilled at helping them to progress at their own level.





Activities that will help your child to prepare for school

Most teachers agree that, for a child starting school, being able to talk and listen are more important than any academic skills.

You can encourage this by:

- Reading together and discussing books and stories
- Asking your child questions about everyday things
- Encouraging them to play with friends
- Singing nursery rhymes together



Independence

Ensuring that your child is as independent as possible will really help them to settle in at school.

Activities that help support independence include:

- going to the toilet on their own
- dressing and undressing by themselves
- knowing what their belongings look like
- washing their hands
- feeding themselves
- tidying up their own toys
- walking independently as much as possible.

Next steps...

It is important for your preschool provider to know which school your child will be attending. This will enable key workers and staff to support your child by talking about that school in particular.

Schools will have some standard forms that you will need to complete. If you have any concerns about filling these in, please do ask your preschool or nursery provider to help you.



Talking with your new school and sharing the knowledge that you have about your child is invaluable. This information will make it easier for the school to help your child to settle in.

Like you, we all want the best for your child. Pre-schools and schools have excellent relationships and communicate regularly to ensure your child's needs are met as they start their school journey.





Before starting school

Some things that your school **may** offer before your child starts:

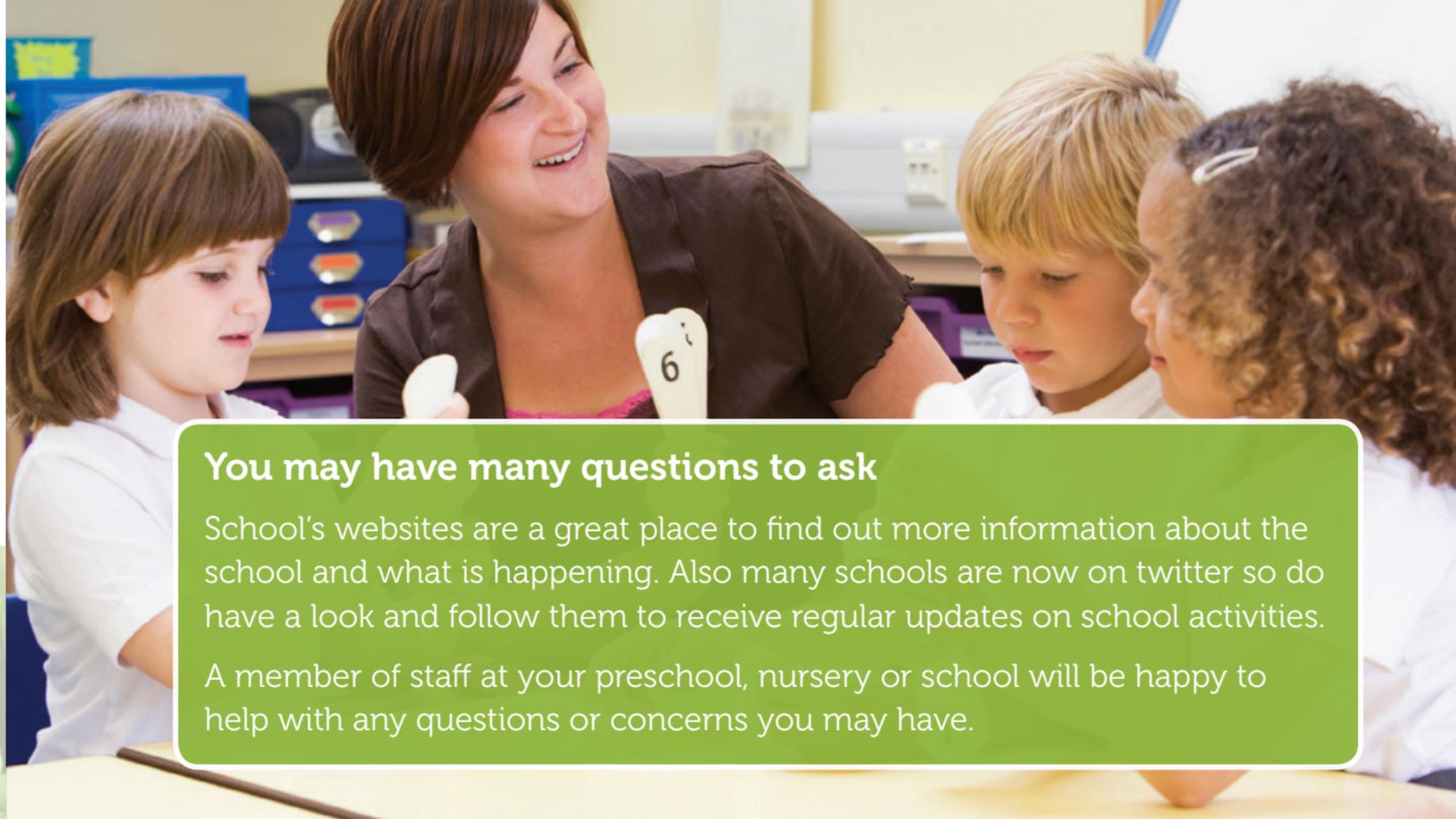
Visit you
and
your child
at home

'Stay and
Play'
sessions at
school

Meet
with your
child's
pre-school

Visits to the
school and
meet the
teachers

Provide
you with
helpful
information



You may have many questions to ask

School's websites are a great place to find out more information about the school and what is happening. Also many schools are now on twitter so do have a look and follow them to receive regular updates on school activities.

A member of staff at your preschool, nursery or school will be happy to help with any questions or concerns you may have.





Looking ahead

Remember, you know your child better than anyone!

We all wish to work together to support your child to ensure they have the best possible start at school.

Most of all, we want your child to be happy and excited to come to their new school.



Useful websites

There are lots of great websites out there to support you and your child, these are just a few you may find useful.

www.pacey.org.uk Fantastic tips and ideas about how best to support your child.

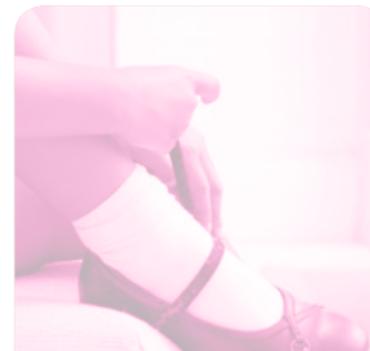
www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home Helpful tips & activities to support children's learning.

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups Lots of great activities & advice.

www.familylives.org.uk Advice and support for parents.

www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/03/what-to-expect-when-a-parents-guide

A guide on children's learning and development 0-5yrs.





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Produced by STEP Teaching School Alliance and our local preschool providers
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