



HILL VIEW
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Reach for the Stars!



Starting School at Hill View Primary

What Parents Can Do To Help!



Helping your child settle happily into school



You are your child's first teacher and there are plenty of things that you can do which will help prepare your child for school

Frequent worries children may have...

They may find mixing with other children is not easy

They may be worried about using a different toilet or having to hang their coat up with those of other children

They may be worried about the playground, or joining a large number of children for assembly in the hall

They may be worried about changing for PE at school

They may find leaving you difficult

They may be happy to leave at first and then want you to stay

How you can help.....

Help your child to understand that they will be coming to school every day. (Sometimes they think it ends after day one!)

Even if you are worried about your child settling happily, try not to share these worries in front of your child. Make it clear to them that you will only be leaving them for a short time

Explain to your child what you will be doing whilst they are at school. They will be reassured that you are at work as normal, or at home, shopping or making the bed

When you feel that it time to leave your child go straight away

Always try to be on time to collect them – they will be waiting for you

Be patient, don't ask too many questions as they sometimes see school as a special secret place, or they may be too tired to talk

Don't put your child under pressure with unrealistic expectations

What we will do to help.....

You and your child will have one teacher, and one teaching assistant who will be your key person in helping your child to settle

The teacher will watch your child closely during the first few weeks. They will look out for who they play with, what their interests are and see if they have any worries

The teacher will play with your child so they can get to know them and find out their strengths

REMEMBER – Please let us know if you have any worries about your child. We want to work closely with your child. Help us to help your child.

Top tips for starting school!

Teach your child to dress and undress independently!



Practice putting on the school uniform, particularly zipping up their coats, buttons, tights and socks etc.

Trousers and skirts with elasticated waists are easier to pull on and off, as are elasticated ties.



There are shirts available where the top button has a Velcro attachment which is really helpful, and not so tight around the neck! (M&S!)



LABEL EVERYTHING!!! Socks and shoes too!

Encourage your child to be independent in using the toilets. Especially wiping bottoms, washing hands and flushing the toilet when finished.



If you are having hot school dinners, please practice eating with a knife and fork at home. If they are having a packed lunch, please cut up large pieces of fruit and practice opening cling film, foil and other wrappings and juice cartons. Try not to over pack the lunchboxes – they take ages to eat to begin with and worry if they have to take food home!



Many of the activities in school are carried out in small groups. You can help your child to share and take turns by playing games as a family. Don't forget that young children need to learn that others can win and how they react to this.



At school your child will be expected to help tidy up after each session/activity. Make sure that your child helps to tidy toys and games away at home.



Sharing books with your child and reading to them will foster and stimulate their interest in reading. If you can take your child to the library to look at books together, that would be great! Don't worry about proper reading yet... we will support you in school with how to help! (Avoid buying school books such as Oxford Reading Tree or Jolly phonics...they are expensive and don't actually give your child a head start.)



Teaching your child songs and rhymes will improve their listening skills, speech and memory. Many traditional songs help with counting.



Children need encouragement to listen. You can model good listening by encouraging your child to look at you when you are speaking. When your child wants to say something to you, look at them and give them a warm smile of encouragement. If you take time to listen to them, they will value this and copy you.

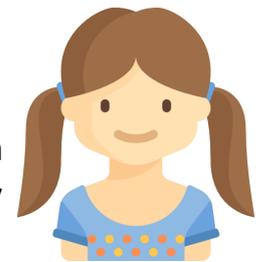


Children learn many skills by copying the adults around them. Encourage your child to speak in sentences. E.g. please may I have a drink of water?



Children love pretend play. Help them to develop their imagination and language through pretend play and dressing up.

Provide your child with lots of opportunities to draw, paint, cut, play with dough, and pick up small objects and trace. This will help them develop their fine motor skills, which will eventually lead to the ability to control a pencil effectively.



Making marks on paper with a pencil are the first steps to writing. Make sure you encourage this (even if it looks like wiggly lines or circles!) and praise them for their efforts.



Catch your child being good and praise them. Tell them what they have done well. E.g. "You put your toys back in the box!" "You listened well to Daddy!" "You put your shoes on!"



Walk the route to school together, looking at the key things you will pass on the way.

Talk about school positively – if you say it will be fun they will be more likely to believe you!



Look at the booklet your child will receive about school – talk about the teacher, the teaching assistant and the kinds of fun things they will do at school.



Do not use the teacher as a threat for bad behaviour at home. We don't want the children to be frightened of us!



Remember – you are a role model for your child and they will try and copy you!

See you in September!