



Elstow-Waihou School

Preparing Your child for school at Elstow- Waihou School

Starting school is a big step in every child's life and is usually looked forward to eagerly. Parents and a happy preschool experience can assist the transition from home and/or preschool to school.

How can you help your child feel comfortable?

Children mirror their parent's attitudes and expectations. Your child needs to know that you think school is important and that you expect them to settle in, enjoy school, work to their ability and be positive about all aspects of the school day.

Parents are First Teachers and you can help if you engage in:

- ◆ Lots of talk, talk, talk
- ◆ Lots of reading of stories
- ◆ Lots of sharing and playing together
- ◆ Lots of encouragement that develops independence
- ◆ Lots of loving, caring and the establishment of firm boundaries
- ◆ Regular home and school routines

Here are some skills acquired at home and preschool that make the transition easier for your child:

Social

- ◆ Happy to come to school
- ◆ Independent with some self help skills
- ◆ Can share, take turns, play harmoniously with others
- ◆ Can recognise and look after own belongings
- ◆ Can manage their lunch box and school bag.
- ◆ Can toilet independently
- ◆ Can dress self
- ◆ Can fasten shoes.....laces or is beginning to control this task.

Work Habits

- ◆ Can sit and work for a period of time on his/her own
- ◆ Can sit and listen for a period of time
- ◆ Can take direction –follow some rules
- ◆ Can follow instructions
- ◆ Can share some ideas
- ◆ Will join in with rhymes and activities

Skills

We have listed these in an order of priority. While these skills are desirable, they are not necessary, the school would rather receive a happy, alert talkative child who has been exposed to and has talked about a wide variety of experiences, in the home, community and an ever widening field.

Remember, ALL CHILDREN DEVELOP AT DIFFERENT RATES and if your child is not ready to identify all the letters of the alphabet at 5 **don't panic**. Continued exposure to them and lots of hands-on experiences will help to prepare them for that kind of learning.

- ◆ Can recognise own name
- ◆ Can paste a picture
- ◆ Can use scissors
- ◆ Can draw a recognisable object
- ◆ Can build and construct and can complete a puzzle
- ◆ Can sort for colour and shape
- ◆ Can recognise and identify the basic colours and shapes—circle, triangle square, rectangle or oblong
- ◆ Can hold a crayon or fat felt in the correct pencil grip
- ◆ Can write own name in lower case letters
- ◆ Can rote count to 10
- ◆ Can recognise some letters of the alphabet
- ◆ Can recognise some numerals

