



## The Best Start: ready to learn, ready for life

### Getting Ready for School: Guidance for Parents and Carers

*Warwickshire County Council is committed to ensuring that children in Warwickshire get the best start to help them to be ready to learn, ready for life*

*Our challenge is to foster children's love of learning from birth through early childhood and into year one, so that all young children achieve their potential*

#### **This guidance will:**

- help you understand what "being ready for school" means
- help you to prepare your child with their transition to school
- help everyone work together to support your child

#### **What does "being ready for school" mean?**

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), who work for the protection of children's rights says that there are 3 key factors needed for all children to be school ready:

- child readiness
- early years setting and school readiness
- family readiness

In Warwickshire we know that everyone has an important role in helping your child to be school ready. Therefore, we have included a fourth key factor:

- services readiness

**Child readiness:** this is what a child should know and be able to do so that they can start school confidently and ready to learn.

**Early years setting and school readiness:** early years providers will create a child friendly learning environment. This should be adapted to the needs of individual children.

**Family readiness:** this is the positive role that parents, and carers play in their child's early learning, development and transition to school.

**Services readiness:** education, health, social care, and other services will work together to help you with any issues that affect your child's readiness for school.

In Warwickshire we know that the skills that your child needs to be school ready are skills that they will need for life. We want your child to:

- feel secure
- make good relationships
- have positive interactions
- manage their emotions
- become confident to talk about their needs



- become independent
- be curious to learn
- investigate within a safe, secure environment
- become interested in the world around them
- be supported by parents/carers, early years settings and schools

## School Readiness

Play is an important part of learning and builds confidence. It helps your child develop their physical, problem solving, communication and social skills. Most children will reach the expected level in the Early Learning Goals at the end of Reception.

Your child will be given a named key person within their early years setting/school who will plan activities that support your child to meet the Early Learning Goals. Your child's key person will also support you in helping your child's development at home.

## Transition

Smooth transitions within the Early Years Foundation Stage are essential to support the emotional health and wellbeing of children. This is particularly important for children with additional needs who may need extra support.

Children who are well supported learn positive ways of coping with change. They are more likely to be emotionally intelligent, resourceful, resilient and go on to fulfil their potential. This needs commitment from everyone working with your child.

Within Warwickshire, early years managers, head teachers and parents/carers can best support a child's transition into school, by making sure that it begins in the pre-school year and extends into Reception. Your child's key person will support your child to settle into school and develop positive ways of managing change. For transition to be successful there needs to be good communication between parents/carers, early years settings, schools and health professionals.

This is achieved through planning the transition between the early years setting and school.

- Transition planning will take place during the summer term before your child starts school to discuss and share information about your child.
- The information shared will include your child's communication, social, emotional and physical development so that transition plans are adapted for each child.
- All information shared about your child's learning and development will be valued and respected, recognising that children will behave differently in their new surroundings.
- Your child may have a visit to their new school and the classroom. Some children may need extra time and support to familiarise themselves with their new school.
- Staff may also visit your child within their early years setting or at home.
- Information will be shared by other professionals working with your child and family regarding any safeguarding concerns.
- Information will be shared in line with general data protection regulations (GDPR).

School should welcome you and your child and build a positive working relationship. It is important that good relationships are built from the very start of your child's transition into school.