



STARTING SCHOOL - FACTSHEET

Moving from Pre-School (Foundation Education) into Primary School

- The foundation stage begins when children reach the age of three. Many children first attend some form of pre-school or nursery soon after their third birthday, attending part-time or full-time. A few will stay at home until they begin primary school.
- From September 2008 all schools and early years providers in Ofsted registered settings of children from birth to the end of the academic year in which the child has their fifth birthday, will have to work within the aims of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The overarching aim of the EYFS is to help young children to achieve the five Every Child Matters Outcomes.
- Children will have already learnt a great deal by the time they are three years old. They may have been taken to groups such as parent and toddler groups, day centres or child minders. For some the foundation stage may be their first experience of a group setting.
- The second year of the foundation stage is often described as the reception year, since most children are admitted to the reception class of an infant or primary school at some point during that year.
- The law says that children do not need to be admitted to school until the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday (compulsory school age). However, the policy in Rotherham is to admit all children to school at the beginning of the Autumn Term before their fifth birthday.

Overcoming first day fears at primary school

This is a big step but there are plenty of practical things that you can do to prepare, such as talking to your child about school and helping to develop their practical skills.

Building on practical skills

If children have a good idea of what school is going to be like and have already experienced learning activities at home and in other settings, they are less likely to find the experience stressful.



The Rotherham Parent Partnership Service

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Where Everyone Matters

Games role-play and reading at home can help your child get into the right frame of mind and boost their confidence. For example:

- Play games that involve taking turns or speaking in front of others
- Playing with children of a similar age to develop social skills
- Reading books together about starting school
- Use your child's favourite toy(s) to role-play going to school
- Painting and drawing; this involves sitting down for short periods of time

Talking to your child

- Explain where they'll be going, what they'll be doing and for how long
- Answer questions and ask what they think the school might be like
- Tell them about the things they will enjoy doing

In the weeks before school starts

- Involve your child in choosing things they need for school such as school bags or uniform
- Visit the school with your child to give them a chance to see what goes on
- Establish a routine and discuss what might be happening at school at different times of the day.

Who could you talk to about starting school?

- Staff in the Early Years setting i.e. Pre School, Nursery, Foundation Unit, Child Minder
- The Class Teacher or Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) in your child's new school
- Friends and family
- Other Parents.

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Produced February 2008