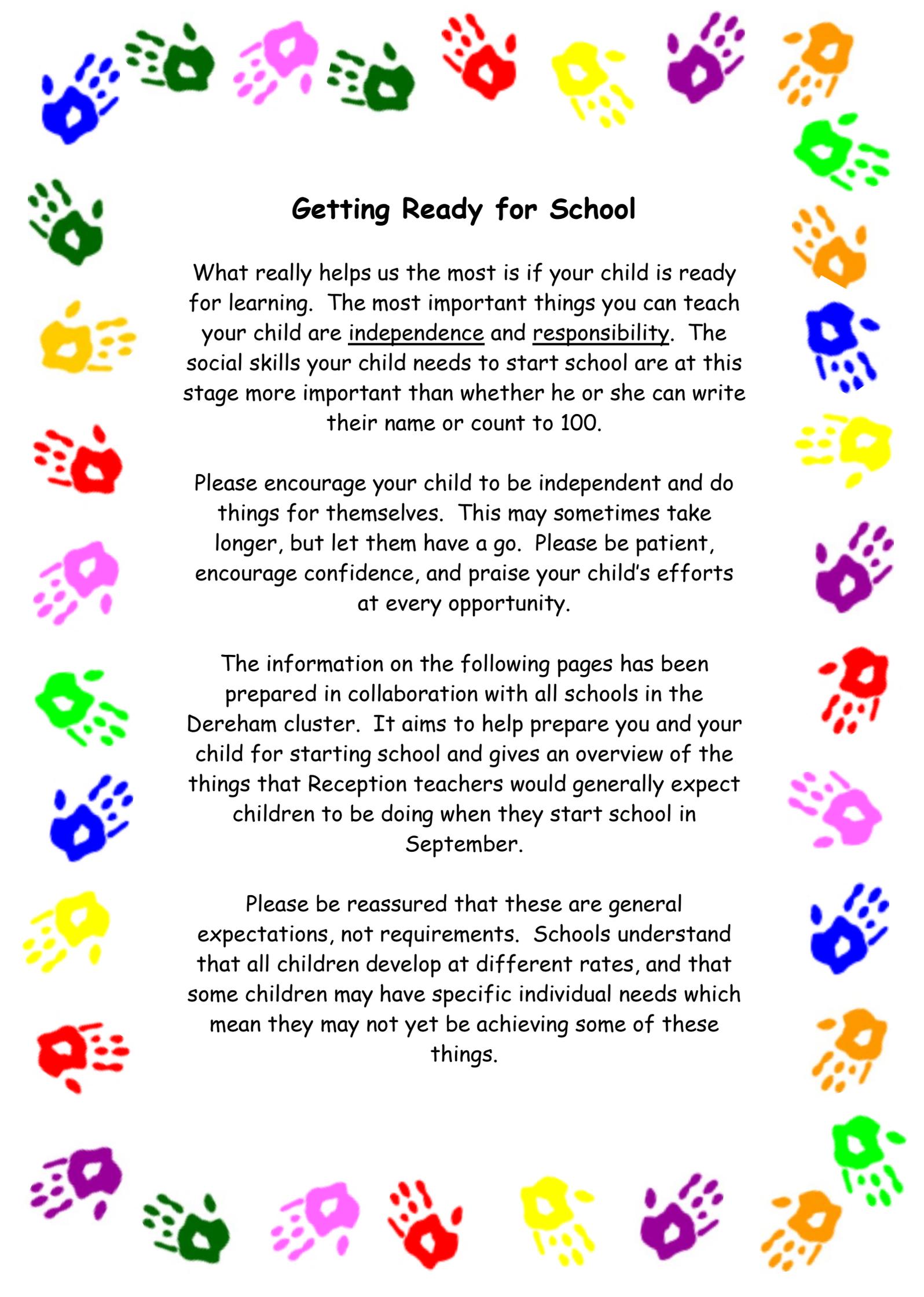


Preparing for School



Schools in the Dereham Cluster have worked together to create this booklet. The information has been prepared by Reception teachers, to provide you with an overview of the expectations for the start of your child's first year at school.





Getting Ready for School

What really helps us the most is if your child is ready for learning. The most important things you can teach your child are independence and responsibility. The social skills your child needs to start school are at this stage more important than whether he or she can write their name or count to 100.

Please encourage your child to be independent and do things for themselves. This may sometimes take longer, but let them have a go. Please be patient, encourage confidence, and praise your child's efforts at every opportunity.

The information on the following pages has been prepared in collaboration with all schools in the Dereham cluster. It aims to help prepare you and your child for starting school and gives an overview of the things that Reception teachers would generally expect children to be doing when they start school in September.

Please be reassured that these are general expectations, not requirements. Schools understand that all children develop at different rates, and that some children may have specific individual needs which mean they may not yet be achieving some of these things.



Fine Motor Skills

Is your child able to do the following things:

- Paint using a brush?
- Attempt jigsaw puzzles and play games?
- Cut using scissors?
- Stick using glue?
- Hold a pen or pencil?

Your child will spend lots of time using and developing these skills when they start Reception. Many children come to school finding it difficult to cut with scissors and stick using glue. It will benefit your child if you can give them experience of these things at home. Using Lego or Play-doh, or playing games like Operation will help to develop the strength in their hands that they will need to become writers.





Toileting

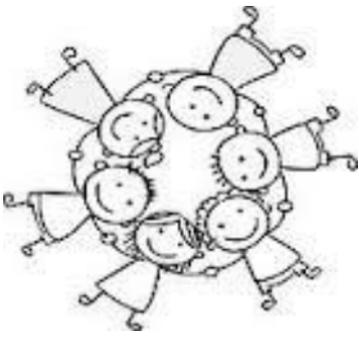
Is your child able to do the following things:

- Use the toilet independently when they need it?
- Use toilet paper?
- Flush the toilet?
- Wash and dry their hands?



If your child has any specific needs with toileting please ensure you share these with their teacher at your transition meeting.





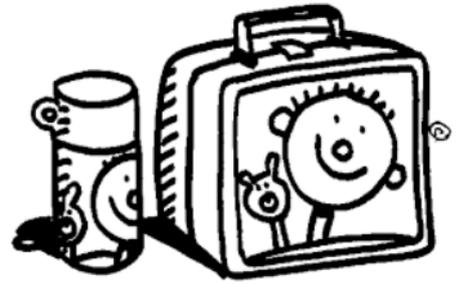
Social Skills

Is your child able to do the following things:

- Begin to be able to take turns?
- Share toys with others?
- Tidy away toys and games they have been playing with?
- Listen quietly to stories or instructions, without interrupting?

Coming to school means becoming part of a community. Encourage your child to take turns and share toys. Help your child learn to wait their turn by not allowing them to interrupt your conversations; instead make them wait until you are ready. We understand that what your child has to say is important. However, in a busy classroom it is important that children understand that their need to say something may not be immediately met.





Hygiene

Is your child able to do the following things:

- Blow their nose and use a tissue?
- Cover their mouth when they cough or sneeze?
- Use a knife and fork?
- Open their lunchbox and undo or open the contents independently?

Tissues will always be available in classrooms and we encourage children to use these and dispose of them properly.

At lunchtimes children are expected to use a knife and fork to eat their hot dinner, and to sit sensibly whilst eating. You can help by encouraging good table manners at home.





Clothing

Is your child able to do the following things:

- Take off their own coat and hang it up?
- Put their coat on and fasten it?
- Begin to dress and undress themselves?
- Get their shoes on and off?

Please bear these things in mind when buying clothes for your child for school. If your child finds zips or buttons tricky, try and practise this at home. Shoe laces can be complicated so think about Velcro fastenings. It will really help if your child can recognise their own name on their name labels.

