

Ambergate Primary School

Some experiences, opportunities and skills would be beneficial for your child to have to prepare them (and you!) for starting school. Many of these activities focus on supporting your child to become more independent. Some activities focus on oracy skills (speaking and listening) which will develop your child's vocabulary and support your child in communicating and expressing themselves as well as problem solving and developing relationships.

I am learning to...	This is how we can practise
Put my coat on independently.	 The Montessori Coat Flip - YouTube
Use a knife and fork to eat independently.	Make time to sit down together to eat dinner. Model for your child the correct way to use a knife and fork, and how to cut food. Encourage children to cut up their own food and feed themselves.
Recognise my name	Use name labels in clothes that are easily recognisable to your child. This will help them to distinguish their clothes when they have taken a jumper/cardigan off. Being able to recognise their name will support your child in being able to write it when we practise this at school.
Get undressed and dressed independently.	Give your child plenty of time to get ready in the morning so they are able to dress independently. Practise this when you are not in a rush, particularly things like tights, socks and buttons. Choose clothes that are easy for your child to put on by themselves, such as Velcro buttons and Velcro shoes. Practise putting on the school uniform during the summer holidays then the children are familiar with how to do this.
Make my own choices.	Give your child two simple choices, such as what to have for breakfast or what toy they would like to play with. Model your own choices for them and explain your reasons, eg. "I've chosen jam on toast because I had cereal yesterday". This will support your child in choosing their lunch when they start school.
Take turns in a conversation.	This is an important skill to help your child settle in to school, make new friends and share their thoughts. Initiate conversations where your child is required to listen to what others say and think of something to say in response. Model asking questions for your child to answer and encourage them to ask questions too. You could introduce a talk piece to your conversations. When you are holding the talk piece (such as a teddy or a shell) it is your turn to speak. When you have finished, you pass it to the next person. You must only speak when you have the talk piece. Using a talk piece is beneficial for children to know when it is their turn to talk or listen.

Put things away after I have finished with them.	Praise your child when they tidy things away after using them. Add labels to drawers or boxes so children can easily identify where things belong. At school, our boxes are labelled with words and pictures to support children in tidying up. If children are used to taking care of toys and resources at home, this will ensure they do the same when they are at school. Developing these organisational skills at an early age will also support your child in later life; particularly with their Maths skills as sorting is a key part of Maths learning.
Meet my own needs.	Encourage your child to identify for themselves when they need a drink, the toilet or to take off/put on a jumper. If your child is too hot, you could say “maybe you need to take your jumper off”. When you give them a drink, explain why they might need a drink. “You have been running around and you are out of breath. Having a drink will cool you down.” This will then help them to think for themselves the next time.

Thank you in advance for your support. We are so excited for your children to join us at Ambergate!