



We understand that starting 'big school' can be daunting for children and their families, so by outlining below some of the skills we will be focusing on in September, we hope to lessen any anxiety you may have – we want you to feel as excited as we are about you joining our Shrewton community!

Please support and encourage your child to practise these skills at home too, and never hesitate to ask if you have queries or concerns. The summer holiday is a very long time for these young children, and the longer (and hopefully warmer!) days gives us a fantastic opportunity to make sure their bodies and imaginations are active, providing a wonderful foundation for the next stage in their education.

## Personal Skills

Encourage your child to:

- wash and dry their hands properly;
- understand when they need to use the toilet, and do so independently;
- use a tissue to blow and wipe their nose;
- find, put on and fasten their coat and shoes;
- put on and take off their school uniform (this is really helpful when we start doing PE lessons).



## Independence and Sharing



Support your child to:

- play board games or jigsaw puzzles that involve taking turns and helps them to listen and concentrate for longer;
- take turns in conversation;
- understand why sharing their toys and/or the area they are playing in is kind;
- tidy up the things that they have been playing with and using;
- use scissors, hold pencils for drawing and writing, and to try painting.



## Eating and Drinking

Talk to your child about how to:

- make healthy choices about food and drinks, and understand what is a 'treat';
- look at the school menu and try some of the different foods. If your child will be having a packed lunch, try packing some lunches together. What would your child like to eat? Can they open their lunchbox by themselves and any boxes or packets inside?
- use a knife and fork to eat, and an open cup to drink.



## Speaking and Listening

Encourage your child to:

- listen to stories, songs and rhymes and to join in with repeated words or phrases;
- fill in the missing (rhyming) word with familiar nursery rhymes or songs;
- make up stories and use their imagination in their play;
- talk about their art and construction;
- look at photos and retell memories;
- give their opinion, and to ask and answer simple questions;
- play games like 'I Spy' or 'What am I?'



## Reading and Writing

Support your child to:

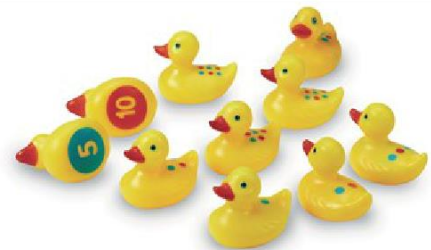
- hold books and turn the pages with care;
- listen to others when they are reading;
- hold a pencil to make marks and draw the things that interest them  
(encourage a 'tripod grip' - using two fingers and their thumb);
- recognise their name (show them where their labels are in their school uniform);
- practise writing their name (try using chalk or a paintbrush dipped in  
water outside, on in the bubbles/shaving foam on the tiles at bath-time)



## Number Skills

Support your child to:

- practise counting aloud to 10;
- count small groups of objects (up to 10);
- sing number rhymes or songs;
- talk about the shapes and colours they see.



Included in this welcome pack is a 'superstar sticker chart' if you wish to give your child something visual to support them before they start school. You may want to just do a little bit at a time and revisit it a few times over the summer holidays. Has your child managed to achieve a skill that they previously found difficult? Celebrate their successes and look at the things your child can already do, and then think about the things that they can almost do. It is important to remember that many children will not have mastered every skill confidently before they begin school. Children can continue to work on these once they have started school, and we would love to see their chart so that we can share their achievements.