School Readiness at MP Bishops Stortford

At Monkey Puzzle Bishops Stortford we focus on being school ready in our pre-school room but this may not mean what you think it does, people often believe that to be school ready children will need to know the alphabet, be able to write their name and recite numbers to 30! This couldn't be more wrong; children need to be **ready to learn** all of these things and more- well kind of!

By the time the children leave us for school there are a few things we'd love for them to be doing…

Independent in personal care and self-dressing

- Children can dress themselves independently for PE, they can put on their coat and puddle suit for the garden and put their shoes on
- Children can attend to their toileting needs mainly independently and wash their hands with no support
- Children can feed themselves their lunch and collect their tray from the dining hall

Reading and Writing

- Children can recognise their own name on their peg
- Children can hold a pencil comfortably in the tripod grip
- Children give meaning to the marks they make and are writing for a purpose
- Children have the gross and fine motor skills necessary for writing
- Children love to listen to stories and can recall and tell a story from memory, they join in with the repeated refrains
- Children can differentiate sounds

Self Confidence

- Children are confident to share their ideas and opinions in groups
- Children can manage their own conflict resolution with minimal support
- Children are eager to learn new skills and are willing to have a go
- Children can manage their own risks
- Children are not deterred when things don't initially go their way

Maths

- Children can subitise, they know by looking that there are a certain number of objects there
- Children can count using one to one correspondence and don't skip over numbers
- Children may recognise number which are important to them such as their age, house number etc.

How we promote school readiness at MP Bishops Stortford

- We ensure children have many opportunities to practise self-care routines themselves, we never rush
- Children are encouraged to toilet train when they are ready
- Children have many opportunities to see print and handwritten text, on daily outings children are encouraged to recognise familiar signs such as Tesco and road signs, children have pegs and placemats with their names on
- Children have ample opportunities to make marks on both a large and small scale and with a variety of tools, children are also offered many activities to promote their fine and gross motor skills
- We read and sing constantly, children can choose books and stories for themselves and look at these independently, we have a variety of books on offer placed throughout the areas in the room, children look at both fiction and non-fiction books
- Children learn to listen, we listen to sounds in the environment and differentiate them, we clap the syllables in our name and listen during group times, we listen to the initial sounds in words
- Our eldest children do woodwork which builds their self-confidence and encourages sustained shared thinking
- Children have the opportunity to share ideas and snippets from home during circle times
- Children are encouraged to follow the golden rules and practitioners are on hand to show children how to resolve conflict
- Children practise counting frequently and are taught to use their 'pointing finger' to help them count effectively, we have opportunities to learn subitising through using dice

Important things to remember

- Your child is not expected to know the alphabet, this is not actually how they will learn at school anyway as children learn to read using phonics, each school has a set program that they use. It is fine if your child is interested in reading but ensure you are teaching your child the correct phonetical pronunciation, YouTube is great for this!
- Children will be helped to dress and undress at school and with toileting needs however you do not benefit from a low ratio like in nursery and if every child in the class required help with dressing/undressing there would be no time for learning
- If your child is interested in writing their name while still at nursery this is absolutely fine although is not a requirement for school, just make sure you are writing it correctly, with an initial capital letter and the rest lower case, let the school know if you would rather your child be known by a different name e.g. Christopher/Chris
- Remember to prepare your child for the transition to school, practise the walk or drive to school to get used to the route, talk about what a typical day will look like, join some groups to try and meet other children who will be attending with your child