

Pinner Park Primary School

Starting Nursery

Your child's journey starts at home



Introduction

We are delighted that your child will be joining our Nursery class at Pinner Park. This is the beginning of an exciting journey into early learning, play, friendships, and fun. We know that every child is unique and develops at their own pace—and we're here to support every step.

Starting Nursery is a big step. Your child may be spending more time away from home, meeting new children and adults, and exploring new spaces and routines. You can help make this transition smooth and positive with some simple activities at home.

There are some key skills that we expect children to be learning before their first day. Practising these will make your child's journey to Nursery as positive as possible.

There's lots you can do at home to build your child's confidence and independence, helping them feel emotionally and practically prepared to start Nursery.

Some of these skills take time to master, so it's good to introduce them gradually in your daily routine.



Key skills to encourage before starting Nursery

Building Confidence and Independence

- Saying goodbye to you with reassurance – practicing being away from Mum and/or Dad
- Carrying their own bag or coat
- Taking off and putting on their own coat
- Using the toilet independently, or with a little support
- Washing and drying hands
- Feeding themselves using a spoon or fork
- Drinking from an open cup (not using a teat or baby cup)
- Not using a dummy

Communication and Language

- Listening to short stories or rhymes
- Joining in with familiar songs
- Naming everyday objects and expressing needs (for example, when they need the toilet)
- Making eye contact and responding to others
- Choosing what they want and telling others



Play, Imagination and Curiosity

- Engaging in simple play like building towers or pretending to cook
- Exploring textures like sand, water, dough, or paint
- Looking at picture books with you and turning the pages
- Playing alongside or with other children
- Being curious about the world around them—asking questions, exploring nature

Making Friends and Managing Feelings

- Taking turns
- Showing an interest in others
- Beginning to express feelings (happy, sad, cross)
- Learning to say “stop” or “no” kindly
- Finding comfort from a trusted adult when upset

Healthy Bodies and Active Play

- Running, jumping, climbing safely
- Crawling, balancing, dancing to music
- Playing outdoors in different weathers
- Sleeping well and eating a variety of foods
- Beginning to brush their teeth with your help
- Walking longer distances (out of the buggy!)

