

What I need to do to be ready for school

- Communicate my basic needs with a familiar adult at school. This can be with words, gestures or a visual communication tool.
- Understand and follow the basic routine of the school day using visual cues and watching what others are doing.
- Become independent in dressing, toileting, eating, drinking and choosing appropriate activities
- Attend school on time every day unless I am poorly or have a medical appointment.

What can parents/carers do to help

- Continue to talk to your child in your home language, involve your extended family and friends with telephone and video calls.
- Share books and stories in your home language. If they are English books you can talk about the pictures and make up your own story.
- Talk about starting school in your home language. You can use photos/videos to prepare your child for what to expect.
- Make sure your child's new teacher knows how to pronounce your child's name correctly from the very first day.
- Pre teach any songs, rhymes or stories in your home language so they become familiar when taught in English at school (ask school for a list of which ones)

Sing songs and nursery rhymes together in your home language. You can listen to them in English online here

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-a-to-z-index/z4ddgwx>



Introduce a visual communication tool. Play with it at home so that your child feels confident to use it at school until they feel ready to speak.

A free one can be downloaded here

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-c-254343-lanyard-sized-pictorial-communication-cards>



Let's Get Ready for School

for children learning English as an Additional Language



More children in the world grow up bilingual than monolingual. Having more than one language is something that should be celebrated, promoted and supported. Bilingualism stimulates brain development and helps children learn because they can think about their ideas in two (or more) languages. Language connects families, allows a child to feel a sense of belonging and helps them develop a cultural identity.

Go on a virtual tour of your child's new school. Some schools have a video on their website and/or photos of teachers and different rooms that you could use.



It is perfectly normal for children who are new to English to enter a silent phase when they first start at school. During this time they will be listening and absorbing language even if they don't feel confident enough to speak it yet. Continue to use your home language to reassure them.

A child who develops good use of their home language is more likely to develop good English.

Create an 'All About Me' book using photos and drawings of your child, family members, pets, favourite toys, games and books to share with your child's new teacher so that they can get to know them. You do not need to do any writing or use any English words unless you want to.

ALL ABOUT ME!



Learning and using more than one language can improve creative thinking, problem-solving and expression.