



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST



KEYINGHAM
PRIMARY



School
Readiness



Welcome to **Keyingham!**

Keyingham is part of The Consortium Academy Trust, where we are committed to building strong foundations of knowledge and skills that enable every child to achieve their full potential – academically, socially and emotionally.

The Trust is made up of ten schools, including three primary schools: Croxby, Keyingham and Penshurst. At the heart of everything we do is an unwavering commitment to putting our learners first. Through collaboration, innovation and resilience, our schools work together to provide inclusive, high-quality education, rich learning experiences and a strong sense of belonging. We are proud to support our children as they grow, learn and take responsibility within their school and wider community.



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School Readiness

We are delighted that your little one will be getting ready to become a part of our nurturing community at Keyingham. We can't wait to meet them!

You may have heard the term 'school readiness', but what does it mean, and how do you know if your child is ready to start school?

To us, it is about the active steps taken to help your little one in the build up to their first day of 'big school' and growing your child's potential to become school ready. We believe the best way to achieve this is by working together with you to support the development of your child's confidence, resilience and curiosity in preparation for the exciting time ahead. After all, you have been your child's first teacher and already know the wealth of skills your child has been working hard on developing.

A huge part of school readiness is about focusing on your child's physical, social, emotional and reasoning skills. This is why the early years curriculum's prime areas are:

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development

Children start school with a wide range of experiences and abilities, and your child will progress at their own level through the school year. Our job, and passion, is to work hard with your child to help them to grow academically, socially and emotionally. We can't wait to get started and nurture your child's success!

We have seen that for a child to be able to happily settle into their new school community, they will need to put into practice their skills around:

- asking questions
- taking turns
- taking safe calculated risks
- vocalising their choices and feelings

Don't worry if your child can't do all these just yet, once they are in our school community they will learn a great deal from their teachers and peers. This is just a guide, for those who are interested, to help prepare your little one for a smooth transition into what will be the start of a wonderful journey for the next 7 years of their education.

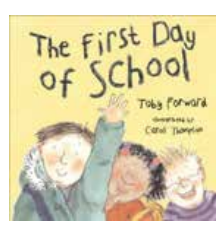
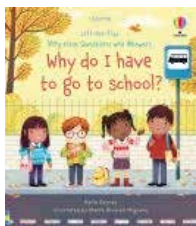
How to prepare your child for their first day of school

Taking fun constructive steps to help prepare your child for school will positively impact on how well they settle in and interact with their future friends.

In addition to what you are already doing, such as talking to your child about what school will be like, you might want to try some of the following...

1. Read books together about school

Visit the library and ask if they have any books available about starting school or search online for storytellers reading aloud.



2. Watch shows about being at school

There are happy positive shows aimed at helping your child learn more about school. Here are a few of the many that are available...

Jojo & Gran Gran – It's Time to Play Schools

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001r3ct/jojo-gran-gran-series-3-autumn-4-its-time-to-play-schools>

Topsy and Tim – First Day

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b04kklnT/topsy-and-tim-series-2-29-first-day>

Hey Duggee – Top of the Pups: The First Day Song

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p0cyx1yv/hey-duggee-top-of-the-pups-the-first-day-song>

3. Practise self-care

Being independent is not only a useful skill for when your little one starts school, but always a positive way to help build your child's resilience and sense of achievement in being able to do things for themselves. Doing things like getting dressed themselves, blowing their own nose, carrying their own things and going to the toilet alone helps your child to feel confident and comfortable when in class.

If your little one is not fully confident in going to the toilet alone or getting dressed, don't worry! There's no rush and every child makes progress at their own speed, take some time to practise self-care with your little one until they become more confident.

4. Practise the basic skills your little one will need for starting school

As we have already said, we can't wait to meet your child and to be their first schoolteacher. We are looking forward to helping to nurture your little one's academic, social and emotional success. We say first schoolteacher, as we know that we are not your child's first teacher – that is you! As your child's first teacher, you may want to know what else you could do to help prepare for the first year of school or if you are already doing the right thing.

- Spending time chatting with your little one about what you are doing and listening to them is valuable in preparing your child for having meaningful conversations with their teachers and future friends. Reading to your child will develop a love for books which will lay solid foundations for widening your little one's vocabulary, and the beginnings to word reading and writing.
- Mark making is a simple way to encourage your little one to draw which will eventually lead to writing their own sentences independently. Writing your child's name with them will help them to recognise their name on their clothing, school peg, water bottle and allow them to name their wonderful craft work that they will want to bring home with them.
- Playing games like hopscotch will help to develop your little one's gross motor skills and understanding of turn taking. Going to the park and encouraging your child to play on age-appropriate equipment with independence will develop their safe calculated risk-taking skills as well as getting used to being in an area with other children of a similar age. Climbing at the park will strengthen those little fingers ready to make meaningful marks using tools like pencils and engage resilience when not giving up. Completing craft activities, using age-appropriate scissors and small tools will help to build fine motor skills and being imaginative. Singing nursery rhymes will develop speech, listening and counting skills.

By the end of Nursery your child should be able to:

- Recognise and write their first name
- Put on a coat and begin to fasten it on their own
- Say numbers in order up to 10
- Recognise the numerals 1-5
- Count up to five items accurately
- Begin to discuss and explore the characteristics of 2D and 3D shapes (show an understanding that a ball/snowman is round and that houses have a 'pointy' roof)
- Be independent with their self-care (blowing their nose/washing their hands and ensuring they are clean/dry after using the toilet)
- Get dressed independently, such as understanding which hole to put their head through in a T-Shirt/Jumper and which foot their shoe goes on.
- Cut up their food using a knife and fork
- Communicate by talking in sentences and begin to use tenses accurately (I played with the toys at home)
- Look and enjoy books independently or with an adult, handling them carefully and holding them the right way up to turn pages.
- Listen to stories/poems and join in with repeated phrases and recognise rhyming words
- Hold a pencil with their fingers and thumbs, no longer with their whole hand
- Begin to make snips in paper using child scissors whilst using the non-dominant hand to move the paper with a thumbs up position on the scissors

5. Visit us

We will be inviting you to come to our 'Stay and Play' sessions and we really hope that you can come. It is a great opportunity for your little one, and you, to meet the adults who will be working with your child in their school and become familiar with the classroom environment.



Let's not forget you, you will also be becoming a part of our wider Trust community...

In addition, here are a few extra tips that we have seen over the years that have helped...

- When talking about school, make sure your child understands school is more than just the first day, it is the rest of the week too! Some children can have a fabulous time separating from their loved ones on the first day of school but then become upset when they realise, they must do it all again the next day.
- Talk through how you will say goodbye to each other when they arrive at school and how they will be picked up when the school part of their day is over.
- Talk with your child about the normal routine things that they will do when they come home from school to help establish that going to school is part of a normal day and will fit into their already established routines.
- Let your child know what they will have for lunch that day. We have seen the positive impact this small conversation can have in helping your child to settle into their new routines.
- There are many blogs and vlogs to help parents offering lots of tips, and BBC bitesize has put together a selection of articles, video clips and games offering helpful advice and fun activities. Some useful links are included below.

Links you may find useful:

How to help your child be independent
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrg8gwx>

Game – My First Day at School
[Play My First Day at School - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmq6jsg)

Help Build Excitement for School with Jamal
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmq6jsg>

Our School Adventure with Kate (Part 1 & 2)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zyg8g7h>

Brummy Mummy's top tips for when your child is starting primary school
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zkb93j6>

Transition from home life to school life
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zfmsxyc>

Support your child's learning at home
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zdxshbk>

Toilet Training
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zdv9382>

How to deal with common sleep problems
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zk2t2sg>

Starting Primary School - BBC Bitesize page with links to articles, tips and games
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/groups/cx1lpm3ve37t>

Seven tips to help prepare for primary school
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/how-to-prepare-your-child-for-primary-school?collection=starting-school-curation>

Are you emotionally ready for the first day of school?
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zvtwcqt>



What does a school day look like **at one of our schools?**

Morning Registration

The school day begins with morning registration. This is a crucial time for your child to settle in, greet their friends, and prepare for the day ahead. Punctuality is important as it sets a positive tone for the rest of the day.

Storytime Session

We have a daily high-quality storytime session using a diverse range of texts. This is a cherished part of our day where children immerse themselves in a world of stories, enhancing their listening skills, vocabulary, and love for reading. We explore a variety of genres and authors to keep the sessions engaging and educational.

Phonics

Phonics is essential for developing reading and writing skills. Through fun and interactive activities, children learn about sounds, letters, and word formation, laying the foundation for literacy. You will be able to support your child with this by practising the sounds they are learning in school each week, but also listening to them read at least three times each week.

Maths

Our morning concludes with a focused maths session. Through hands-on activities and practical experiences, children explore basic mathematical concepts such as counting, shapes, and patterns. These sessions are designed to make maths fun and accessible for all children.

Continuous Provision and Child-Initiated Activities

Between structured learning sessions, children engage in continuous provision. This means they have access to a range of activities that they can choose from, all designed to help them achieve the Early Learning Goals.

These activities include:

- Role Play: Enhances social skills and creativity.
- Construction: Develops problem-solving and fine motor skills.
- Art and Craft: Encourages self-expression and imagination.
- Outdoor Play: Promotes physical development and an appreciation for nature.

Lunch and Break

After a busy morning, children enjoy their lunch together, learning how to sit together and socially engage over a meal. As OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) schools, outdoor play is an important and valued time for us. It has a profoundly positive impact on children's mental and physical wellbeing, helping them become happier, more active, and more engaged learners. It promotes higher levels of physical activity, supports social-emotional growth, builds resilience through safe risk-taking, and leads to better behaviour in the classroom

Afternoon Continuous Provision

The afternoon continues with more child-initiated activities and continuous provision. During this time, children have the freedom to explore different areas of the classroom and outdoor space, following their interests and making independent choices.

Home Time

The school day usually ends with a song or a story to ensure children leave school feeling calm and happy. Please ensure you are on time to collect your child. If you have any questions or need to speak with a teacher, arrange an appointment by emailing the office.



Communication and Involvement

We believe in strong home-school partnerships.

Regular communication between parents and teachers is key to supporting your child's learning journey.

We encourage you to:

- Attend parent-teacher meetings and school events.
- Stay updated with our weekly newsletters and notices.
- Reach out to us with any questions or concerns.



www.keyinghamprimaryschool.co.uk



[keyinghamkids](https://www.instagram.com/keyinghamkids)

Home to School Information

Things I'd like my teachers to know about me...

My name is _____

I will be 5 on _____

My favourite things are...

Things that may make me worry...

Things that may make my family worry...

This is a picture of me in my school uniform...



Here are all the important people and animals in my life...

Colour in the pictures that show how you feel about starting school. It could be more than one!





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