



Getting Ready for Year 1- What you can do to prepare

Here are a few examples of things you can try at home with your child during the summer in preparation for Year 1.

English and Phonics: Try some of these at home:

- Visit a library or bookshop and let your child choose their own books
- Read regularly to your child – even if they're a fluent reader, they will still enjoy it
- If your child is not keen on stories, try fact-based non-fiction books or a comic to spark their interest
- Give your child plenty of opportunities to draw and write with a range of materials
- Ask your child to help you write a shopping list and then look for the items when they get to the shop
- Encourage them to write to people as much as possible: greetings cards, birthday invitations, thank you letters and postcards are a great way of giving them a real purpose for writing
- At bedtime sometimes ask them to tell you a story instead of you reading to them – make sure it's a really familiar one, like a traditional tale.
- Working with them, make a book of one of their favourite stories by asking them to draw pictures depicting the sequence of the story.

Maths: Try some of these at home:

- At meal times use the 'language of addition' when talking about food (for example, "You've got one spoonful of carrots and two of peas, that's three spoonful of vegetables altogether").
- Challenge your child to categorise their soft toys in certain ways (all bears together, all pink toys together, all small or medium-sized toys together, etc.), then have them count how many of them are in two of the groups combined.
- Play games: a simple board game such as snakes and ladders gives your child valuable practice in counting on. Dominoes are also good for counting spots and matching numbers
- Sort things out: if you have a box of beads, sort them by size or colour



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- Look for numbers when you go out – look on houses, buses, road signs, car number plates
- Ask your child to set the table: they'll have to count the settings and work out how much cutlery is needed
- Get cooking: children love to weigh out the ingredients and check the timer

Science: Try some of these at home:

- Have a look at some plants in your garden or on a walk in the park. See if your child can name the different parts of a plant. Explain that part of the plant is under the soil. Ask them if they know what roots are for. Get them to draw their own diagram of a plant when they get back inside, labelling all the parts.
- Turn an A4 sheet so it is landscape and write the following headings along the top: Wood, Plastic, Glass, Metal. Now ask your child to go around the house and make lists under each heading of anything they can find made of that material: windows, radiator, wardrobe etc. Discuss with them why each material is used to make the different objects. Why do we have glass windows rather than wood? Why is food packaged in plastic rather than paper?
- See if you can find any books in a library or bookshop on different types of animals. Share the books with your child and encourage them to become an expert on the subject before they study this topic at school.