

Health Visitors

Health Visitors work with parents and carers who have new babies, offering support from the ante-natal period until the child starts school at five years of age.

Contact Centre: 0121 612 5021

Speech and Language Therapy Team

Speech and Language Therapists work with children with speech, language, interaction or swallowing difficulties.

FASTA (Faster Access to Sandwell Therapy Treatment)

Contact: 0121 612 2010

Quality Early Years and Childcare Services

The Quality Early Years and Childcare services provide sufficiency and quality of early years provision in order to raise achievement of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Contact: 0121 569 4914

www.sandwell.gov.uk/earlyyears

Family Information Services

The Family Information Service (FIS), provide free, confidential and impartial advice and guidance on all aspects of childcare and related services in Sandwell to parents/carers with babies and children aged from birth until 19 years of age.

Children's Centres

Early Years services work in partnership with parents to support their understanding of how children learn and develop so that their children are ready for school.

Oldbury Burnt Tree Children's Centre

0121 557 0740

Greets Green Children's Centre (West Bromwich Central)

0121 500 4011

Friar Park, Mesty Croft and Woods Children's Centre

0121 556 5405

Rowley (Springfield) Children's Centre

0121 559 9916

Tipton Children's Centre

0121 552 5150

Inclusion Support Early Years (ISEY)

ISEY supports children in their early years who have individual or special educational needs/disabilities (SEND). It is a multiagency service made up of professionals from health and education.



Temple Meadow
Primary School

Growing together, learning together

School Readiness at Temple Meadow



A child's first day at school is a big moment for you and for them.
It can both be an exciting and nervous time.

We have put together the following information as a simple guide to how you can best prepare your child for this exciting time in their lives.

Temple Meadow Primary School, Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64 6RH

Telephone: 01384 569 021

Email: tm.admin@meadow.sandwell.sch.uk

Ready for Nursery

Now I am 3

Child

I am beginning to become independent in doing things for myself.

I am beginning to play alongside my friends.

I am beginning to enjoy my favourite stories, songs and rhymes.

I am beginning to use action words in my play, for example, 'I am jumping'.

Family

We will find out about how our child likes to learn and provide opportunities for experiences at home.

We will support our child to become independent in eating, washing hands and toileting.

We will continue to share and read books together daily.

We will let our child watch us write and encourage them to make marks.

We will provide everyday opportunities to use numbers, for example, counting as you climb the stairs.

Nursery

We will help your child build on their words by commenting, expanding and giving them exciting words to use in their play.

We will work in partnership with you, giving you practical ideas to develop your child at nursery and at home.

Don't forget to apply for your child's school place.



Reading and Writing

A good foundation is to start with sound awareness skills such as rhyming and identifying what a word begins with would be helpful. Sharing songs and books is a really good way to support this. You could also say the sounds that letters make, along with their names as you come across them day to day.

'Name treasure hunts' can be a fun way of getting your child to recognise their name. Write your child's name on pieces of paper and hide them around the house. Encourage your child to find them all. Other names/words can be introduced to encourage your child to look carefully at each letter of their name.

A good foundation to being able to write is to develop your child's fine motor skills. This is because good fine motor skills enable a child to hold a pencil firmly as they are writing. Threading is a great way to develop fine motor skills, whether it is with beads or buttons, or making necklaces out of dried pasta.

Encourage your child to develop an interest in books and other forms of text, for example, comics, letters, labels and environmental print around the home/outside. You could visit your local library and encourage your child to choose books they would like to listen to and look at. Read with your child and discuss what you have read, for example ask what they liked about it.

Mathematical development

Being able to count verbally to at least 20 will be of great benefit to a child starting school. Practise counting up to 20, and backwards too. A number hunt is a fun way to look for numerals on doors, on clocks, buses, cars, signs, at home, at the shops or on the TV. You could also play 'I spy' but with numbers. One to one counting can also be done incidentally throughout the day, for example counting steps as your child climbs the stairs. You can count anything, for instance how many lampposts are on the street, how many houses have a red door, how many pieces of fruit are in the bowl. Encourage reliable one to one counting by showing your child how to point to each item as they count, or to move the items as they count so they do not count each item more than once. This will help your child understand what numbers mean. Ask them to find the same number of different items. For example, find 3 spoons, 3 hats or 3 socks. You can also sing counting songs.

You could go on a shape hunt to see how many circles, squares, rectangles and triangles your child can find. You could look for patterns too. Talk about the shape and size of objects e.g. big car, little car, round ball, square table. Play with blocks and encourage your child to think about size, colour and shape.

Ready for Reception

Now I am 4

Child

I am showing you the knowledge and skills I have through my play and can talk to you about it.

I am learning to match letters with their sounds.

I am beginning to write my name.

I am learning to say, count and write numbers purposefully in my play.

I am using nouns, verbs and adjectives to talk to other people about what I need and what I can do.

Family

We will learn about how our child is learning through the Early Years Foundation Stage.

We will encourage our child to be independent in dressing, undressing and self-care.

We will continue to model writing and support our child to make more meaningful marks, for example, by writing a shopping list.

We will talk and play with numbers and shapes.

We will read books to our child and let them read to us.

School

We will support your child to become and independent and confident learned through play.

We will provide opportunities to experience early literacy and early maths through play,

We will work in partnership with you to develop your understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Ready for Year 1

Now I am 5

Child

I can listen to other people and include ideas in my play and work as part of a small group.

I can ask questions, make comments and suggestions about stories I have listened to.

I can use my imagination to write sentences that others can read.

I can use my maths skills to solve problems.

Family

We will understand Year 1 expectations and share any relevant information from home.

We will hear our child read daily and support them in any home learning activities.

We will continue to build our child's confidence, self-esteem, independence and motivation to learn.

School

We will build upon your child's ability to become an independent learner and become confident with who they are.

We are guided by the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, keeping your child's emotional well-being at the heart of what we do.

We will work in partnership with you to develop your understanding of the Year 1 National Curriculum.

Promoting Independence

Your child will really benefit from being as independent as possible when they start school. Of course, our teaching staff will always be on hand to help. However, children feel a real sense of achievement when they can accomplish things by themselves. For example, blowing their nose and being able to dress and undress themselves, as this will really help with PE sessions.

Children will also have access to an outdoor space throughout the day so being able to put their coat on and zip it up will really help them; as will being able to put on a pair of shoes or taking off their jumper when they get hot.



Having lunch independently may also be new to your child. If they will be having hot dinners, practise using a knife, fork and spoon. If they are taking a packed lunch, practise opening the packets and containers of food they will be taking. Encourage them to help choose and make their lunches. Maybe they could use their new school lunchbox and water bottle when you go for a picnic in the park?

Listening and attention skills

Your child will be given many spoken instructions throughout the school day and will need to be able to shift their attention from what they are doing to listening to what the teacher is saying.

A lovely activity to promote this is to go on a 'listening walk' where your child listens for all the sounds around them in the park or town centre. You could also jot down all the sounds your child notices and talk about this back at home to re-tell the journey based on the sounds they heard.

Vocabulary development

At school, children will be expected to start extending their vocabulary, so it is a good idea to encourage your child to learn and use new words. You could play sorting games when packing a suitcase, as this is a great way to help word categorisation, which is important for vocabulary learning. Items can be sorted into different piles, such as clothing and toys.

You could go on outdoor 'treasure hunts' and collect objects found on walks, help introduce new types of vocabulary such as describing words.